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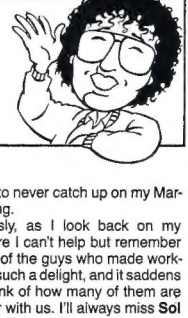
SALICRUP'S SECTION



Back in May, yours truly finally turned 30. Yep, the big three-0. For a lot of my friends this was distressing news. You see, they remember me as that fifteen-year-old kid who started working here in the Bullpen way back when, and my turning thirty is making them painfully aware of how old *they're* getting! It's silly, really. I feel just as young as I've ever felt, there's just more gray hair now than a few years ago.

Turning thirty also means that I have now spent over half of my life working away for mighty Marvel. My mind is completely boggled. It doesn't seem all that long ago that I haunted my favorite newsstands and candy stores back in the Bronx, eagerly awaiting the latest Marvel comics. It'd get really frustrating when the books would arrive and sit tied in a bundle for a few days until I bugged the proprietor to put 'em out on the racks. I still remember saving my school lunch money to get as many titles as possible — it was sheer agony trying to decide which titles to buy when I didn't have enough on me to get 'em all! And this is back when they were only 12¢ each for heaven's sake!

But that was then, and this is now. Now it seems like a new bundle of comics arrives on my desk practically every other day! It's as if I'm trapped in an old Twilight Zone episode, and I'm doomed to never catch up on my Marvel reading.

Seriously, as I look back on my years here I can't help but remember so many of the guys who made working here such a delight, and it saddens me to think of how many of them are no longer with us. I'll always miss **Sol Brodsky**, **Danny Crespi**, **Gene Day**, **Bill Everett**, **Morrie Kuramoto**, **Artie Simek**, **John Verpoorten**, and **Duffy Vohland**, and I'll always be thankful for the opportunities I had to learn from all of them. The Bullpen just isn't the same anymore.

But enough of this sad stuff! I'm just as excited and enthusiastic about the ever-changing Marvel Universe as I was fifteen years ago. So let's work together and make the next fifteen years the best ever! After all, we're all in this together, so let's have a blast!

—Jim Salicrup

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MARVEL

COMING ATTRACTIONS

Here is a complete checklist of what's happening in all the **Marvel**, **Epic**, **Star** and **New Universe** titles bearing a **January** cover date.

Not one, but two **Caps** in CAPTAIN AMERICA! A new direction for **THE STAR BRAND**! **The Black Cat** and **Dagger** go shopping! And that's just a hint of the excitement you can expect next month. Don't risk missing out on the fun. Tell your comics shop owner to reserve your favorite titles right now!

Titles Shipping September 1
On Sale September 22

☐ **DAREDEVIL** #250 — **Daredevil's** alter ego, **Matt Murdock**, thought he had enough trouble just battling the court to keep his legal clinic open. But then he met the assassin known only as **Bullet**! "Boom" is written by **Ann Nocenti**, penciled by **John Romita Jr.**, and inked by **Al Williamson**. 75¢.

Gangway for the Captain, the Falcon D-Man, and Nomad in CAPTAIN AMERICA #337! Cover penciled by Mike Zeck and inked by Bob McLeod.

☐ **THE NEW MUTANTS** #59 — In the first of three special issues, **Sunspot** and **Warlock** return as the **New Mutants** travel to **Bird Brain's** home — and the trip turns out to be anything but a vacation, because they discover the mutant-busting threat of **Cameron Hodge** and **The Right**! Written by **Louise Simonson**, penciled by **Bret Blevins**, and inked by **Terry Austin**. 75¢.

new universe™

☐ **PSI FORCE** #15 — Where do you go if you're a paranormal and you can't control your powers? If you're **Michael Crawley**, you go to **the Clinic**. But as **D.P. 7** knows, **the Clinic** is the last place you'd ever want to go! Written by **Danny Fingeroth**. 75¢.

☐ **WEB OF SPIDER-MAN** #34 — Could a football game among **Spider-Man** and a group of kids decide the fate of the cosmos? When the **Watcher** and the unscrupulous intergalactic gambler, **A'sai**, bet on its outcome, it sure could! But don't be quick to put your money on **Spider-Man** — because **A'sai** doesn't play fair! "Fourth . . . and Eternity" is written by **Jim Shooter**, penciled by **Sal Buscema**, and inked by **Vince Colletta**. 75¢.

☐ **STRIKEFORCE: MORITURI** #14 — A family is taken hostage by one of **the Horde**. But the **Morituri** can't resist them — they're too busy standing trial for treason! "All My Trials . . . " is written by **Peter B. Gillis**, penciled by **Brent Anderson**, and inked by **Scott Williams**. Direct Sales only. $1.00.

Doctor Octopus's worst nightmare comes true in THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #296! Cover illustrated by John Byrne.

☐ **THE PUNISHER** #5 — It's a no-holds-barred fight to the finish between **the Punisher** and the bizarre cult-leader, **the Rev**, when **the Punisher** invades the "Ministry of Death!" Written by **Mike Baron** and illustrated by **Klaus Janson**. 75¢.

☐ **MASTERS OF THE UNIVERSE** #11 — **He-Man** and one of his deadliest enemies, **Hordak** — the best of friends?! What's going on here?! "Whose Enemy Am I Anyway?" is written by **George Caragonne**, penciled by **Ron Wilson**, and inked by **Danny Bulanadi**. A Star Comic. $1.00.

☐ **HEATHCLIFF FUNHOUSE** #5 — Trying to stop the dog-napping of the famous TV star canine, **Dynamo**, **Heathcliff** and **Iggy** wreak havoc in a gigantic TV studio where they fight spies, tangle with wrestlers, survive the jungle, and cause a thousand laughs. "Lost in TV Land" is written by **Angelo DeCesare**, penciled by **Warren Kremer**, and inked by **Jacqueline Roettcher**. A Star Comic. $1.00.

☐ **THUNDERCATS** #19 — **S-s-slithe** and the mutants have cooked up a dastardly scheme to seize power — one that will turn all the **Thundercat** males into their helpless slaves! "Doom Gaze" is written by **Steve Perry**, penciled by **Jim Mooney**, and inked by **Mike Esposito**. A Star comic. 75¢.

☐ **CONAN THE KING** #44 — The evil **Crassus** and **King Xantus** may be dead, but **Queen Leora** has escaped to form a devilish alliance with the mage **Caliastros** and **the Warlord of Koth**! And the trio has captured **King Conan's** son, **Prince Conn**, and robbed him of his memory! Can **Rufio** and **Deryck** rescue **Conn** before he's used as a weapon against his own father? "The Spoils of Victory" is written by **Don Kraar**, penciled by **Mike Docherty**, and inked by **Fraja Bator**. $1.25.

☐ **THE TRANSFORMERS UNIVERSE Trade Paperback** — It's THE TRANSFORMERS UNIVERSE Limited Series corrected and compiled into one high-quality volume! The heroes and villains of the comic book — and the stars of the hit animated movie all in one book — face it, for **Transformers** fans, this is a *must!* Written by **Bob Budiansky** and illustrated by **Ian Akin** and **Brian Garvey**. 128 pages. $5.95.

Titles Shipping September 8
On Sale September 29

☐ **CAPTAIN AMERICA** #337 — **Nomad**, **the Falcon**, and **D-Man** finally track down **Steve Rogers** and convince him to get back into costume — but it's not the **Captain America** costume! "The Long Road Back" is written by **Mark Gruenwald**, penciled by **Tom Morgan**, and inked by **Dave Hunt**. 75¢.

☐ **SOLO AVENGERS** #2 — Two great stories for the price of one!

There's a new villain in town and his name is **Trickshot**! What is the true story behind **Hawkeye's** origin? You'll marvel at the answer in "The Way of the Arrow!" Written by **Tom DeFalco**, penciled by **Mark Bright**, and inked by **Joe Rubinstein**.

Plus: **Captain Marvel** confronts the South American dictator who was responsible for her powers . . . and now wants them for his own! Written by **Roger Stern** and penciled by **Keiron Dwver**. 75¢.

☐ **THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN** #296 — The last time we saw **Doctor Octopus**, he'd been driven insane by his obsession with **Spider-Man**. But when a guy has super-strong metal tentacles, can any asylum hold him for long? Written by **David Michelinie**, penciled by **Alex Saviuk**, and inked by **Vince Colletta**. 75¢.

A **Limited Series** is a title which will only run for a specific number of issues.

A **Graphic Novel** is an 8½" × 11" paperback edition.

A **Digest** is a 4¾" × 6⅝" paperback edition.

A **Trade Paperback** is a 7" × 10" paperback edition.

Bookshelf format is a high-quality, stiff-covered comic book edition.

A **Direct Sales** title is available only at selected outlets.

Shipping Date refers to when the comics leave the printer.

☐ **STRANGE TALES** #10 — Twice the adventure! Twice the suspense!

It's a no-win situation for **Doctor Strange**! If he follows **Kaluu's** orders, he'll betray everything he believes in. But if he doesn't, he'll doom Earth! "Hierarchies" is written by **Peter B. Gillis**, penciled by **Richard Case**, and inked by **Randy Emberlin**.

Also, When **the Black Cat** takes **Dagger** on a wild shopping spree, there's no telling what will happen! And wait till you see **Dagger's** new look! "Felonious Feline" is written by **Terry Austin** with art by **Bret Blevins**. 75¢.

☐ **GROO THE WANDERER** #35 — **Groo** has found a magic amulet that lets him do whatever he wishes. If you thought the bungling barbarian was dangerous before, wait'll you see him now! Created and illustrated by **Sergio Aragones** with cryptography by **Mark Evanier**. An Epic comic. $1.00.

☐ **HEADMASTERS Limited Series #4** — The wild wrap-up to this 4-issue Limited Series. **Llyra** fears that the man she loves is a self-promoting warmonger! Will she learn the truth about him? And more importantly, will she learn it in time? "Brothers in Arms" is written by **Bob Budiansky**, penciled by **Frank Springer**, and inked by **Ian Akin** and **Brian Garvey**. $1.00.

☐ **ALPHA FLIGHT** #54 — The battle with **Bedlam** is over, but the **Alphans** are still stuck in Antarctica with no rescue in sight! And as if that isn't bad enough, **Goblyn** is on the prowl during "Goblyn Night!" Written by **Bill Mantlo**, penciled by **Hugh Haynes**, and inked by **Whilce Portacio**. Direct Sales only. $1.00.

☐ **POWER PACK** #34 — When **Katie** and **Franklin** get bored, they go out looking for something to do. But they get more than they bargained for when they meet up with the zany **Madcap**! "Child's Play" is written by **Howard Mackie**, penciled by **Larry Alexander**, and inked by **Tony DeZuniga**. Direct Sales only. $1.25.

☐ **VIDEO JACK** #2 — **Jack's** discovered that being trapped in an MTV universe is bad. And now it's getting worse! There's a serial killer on the loose! "Rock Rules" is written by **Cary Bates** and illustrated by **Keith Giffen**. An Epic comic. Direct Sales only. $1.25.

☐ **SPIDER-MAN COMICS MAGAZINE** #7 — **Spidey** takes on everybody from **Quicksilver** to **the Shocker** to **Man Mountain Marko** in these classic stories reprinted from **THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN** #s 71–73. And what is the secret of the mysterious clay tablet? Written by **Stan Lee**, penciled by **John Romita**, and inked by **Mike Esposito**. A Marvel Digest. 64 pages. $1.25.

☐ **SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN** #143 — **Red Sonja** is back! **Conan** and **Sonja** are searching for an alien idol — but the idol brings death to whomever possesses it! And before they can even reach the idol, they're going to have to get past a horde of killers and the inhuman monster that guards the idol! "The Waiting Doom" is written by **Charles Dixon**, penciled by **Gary Kwapisz**, and inked by **Ernie Chan**. A Marvel Magazine. For Mature Readers only. $2.00.

☐ **MOEBIUS Graphic Novel** #3 — For the first time in color: **Moebius's** magnum opus, "The Airtight Garage!" In a deadly game of espionage and intrigue, longtime foes **Major Gruber** and **Cornelius** duel for control of the strange and fabulous universe they inhabit, only to become unlikely allies against the plotting of an ancient race of wizards! For Mature Readers. 120 pages. $12.95.

Titles Shipping September 15 On Sale October 6

☐ **MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE** #58 — The **X-Men** dead?! What major changes are in store for **THE NEW MUTANTS** and **X-FACTOR** in The Fall Of The Mutants? Plus: **Stan's** Soapbox, **Hembeck's** Page, and all your other favorites. Direct Sales only. 50¢.

☐ **THE AVENGERS** #267 — When you put **the Fixer**, **Mentallo**, and **the Mad Thinker's** awesome android together, you've got more than just trouble on your hands. You've got the makings of a full-scale "Invasion!" Plotted by **Roger Stern**, scripted by **Ralph Macchio**, penciled by **John Buscema**, and inked by **Tom Palmer**. 75¢.

☐ **THE INCREDIBLE HULK** #339 — The **Hulk** meets up with a kid who possesses unbelievable power and takes him out for a good time. But to the **Hulk**, a "good time" means destruction and carnage galore! "Native Son" is written by **Peter David** and penciled by **Todd McFarlane**. 75¢.

The Gray Goliath is out to overwhelm Bruce Banner in THE INCREDIBLE HULK, penciled by Todd McFarlane and inked by Jim Sanders III.

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☐ **D.P. 7 #15** — Things have gotten pretty quiet around **the Clinic** lately — and that's the problem! **D.P. 7's Twilight** cannot — *does* not — want to control her tranquilizing power! But the more people who succumb to her power, the greater becomes her "Hunger!" Written by **Mark Gruenwald**, penciled by **Paul Ryan**, and inked by **Danny Bulanadi**. 75¢.

☐ **JUSTICE #15** — The truth of **Justice's** origin is revealed! And the consequences of that knowledge is a real killer! Written by **Mark Gruenwald** and illustrated by **Lee Weeks**. 75¢.

☐ **MARVEL TALES #207** — Re-presenting one of the most unusual stories ever told! From **MARVEL TEAM-UP #79: Spider-Man** meets **Red Sonja**! But can even ol' webhead escape "The Sword of the She-Devil?" Written by **Chris Claremont**, penciled by **John Byrne**, and inked by **Terry Austin**. Plus: **Spider-Ham** and his alter-ego, **Peter Porker**, gets entangled in a wacky love quadrangle with the **Black Catfish** and **Mary Jane Waterbuffalo** in "Your Chitlin' Heart" or "Bacon Up Is Hard To Do" written by **Steve Mellor** and drawn by **Joe Albelo**. 75¢.

☐ **SILVER SURFER #7** — Just how powerful *is* the **Silver Surfer**? The answer to that question decides the fate of Zenn-La! Written by **Steve Englehart**, penciled by **Marshall Rogers**, and inked by **Joe Rubinstein**. 75¢.

☐ **AIR RAIDERS #3** — Are the **Air Raiders** willing to lose their courageous comrade, **Eeleta**, for the chance to strike at the very heart of **Aerozar's** evil empire? The answer just may be *yes!* Written by **Howard Mackie**, penciled by **Kelley Jones**, and inked by **Jim Sinclair**. A Star comic. $1.00.

☐ **CONAN THE BARBARIAN #202** — Now that he's been resurrected, the evil sorcerer **Thulsa Doom** wants a new lease on life — and he wants to use **Conan's** life essence to get it! If that wasn't bad enough, he's kidnaped **Conan's** woman, **Anneka**, to use her as a pawn in his deadly game! "Wrath of the Necromancer" is written by **James C. Owsley** and **Val Semeiks**, penciled by **Val Semeiks**, and inked by **Geof Isherwood**. $1.00.

☐ **G.I. JOE #67** — **Cobra's** taken over the icy nation of Frusenland! And just wait till you learn the incredible secret of the Terror Domes! "Cold Snap" is written by **Larry Hama**, penciled by **Ron Wagner**, and inked by **Randy Emberlin**. $1.00.

☐ **MUPPET BABIES #17** — **Piggy, Kermit,** and the rest of **the Babies** enter the world of high finance when they break up the corporate structure of America in this very special Muppet misadventure! "Company Halt" is written by **Laura Hitchcock** and drawn by **Marie Severin**. A Star comic. $1.00.

☐ **VISIONARIES #2** — Will **the Spectral Knights** and **the Darkling Lords** use their incredible new magical powers to save their world — or to destroy each other? "Balance of Power" is written by **Jim Salicrup**, penciled by **Mark Bagley**, and inked by **Romeo Tanghal**. A Star comic. $1.00.

☐ **BULLWINKLE AND ROCKY #2** — As if one **Bullwinkle** wasn't enough, now there are two! But only **Bullwinkle** and **Rocky's** new nemesis, **Baron Von Schtunk**, and his sidekick, **Schulz**, know the real one from the fake! It's a hilarious new adventure of attempted world domination that introduces two new characters as well as an entire nation: Not Nice Land! Who can win the battle of "Bullwinkle vs. Bullwinkle?" Also: the first Star Comics appearance of **Mr. Peabody** and **Sherman**! Written by **Dave Manak**, penciled by **Ernie Colon**, and inked by **Al Milgrom**. A Star comic. $1.00.

☐ **THE UNCANNY X-MEN #205** — The first of three very special issues. **Freedom Force** tries to arrest **the X-Men**! **Storm** battles **Forge**! **Adversary** wreaks chaos as dimensions begin to merge! And at long last — the return of **Colossus**! Written by **Chris Claremont**, penciled by **Marc Silvestri**, and inked by **Dan Green**. Double-sized. $1.25.

☐ **MARVEL FANFARE #36** — In Part 3 of this 4-part Warriors Three saga, **Fandral** the Dashing sets out to foil **Loki's** evil scheme and rescue all of Asgard! Written by **Alan Zelenetz** and illustrated by **Charles Vess**. Plus: A new tale of **the Fantastic Four** written by **Mark Borax** and drawn by **Norm Breyfogle**. Direct Sales only. Hudson paper. $1.50.

Titles Shipping September 22 On Sale October 13

☐ **THE FANTASTIC FOUR #310** — **The Thing** is mutating again . . . but so is **Ms. Marvel**! Will **the FF** ever be the same again? Written by **Steve Englehart**, penciled by **John Buscema**, and inked by **Joe Sinnott**. 75¢.

☐ **IRON MAN #226** — **Iron Man's** wild crusade against the thieves who stole the **Iron Man** armor technology leads him into a battle with **Stingray** — but **Stingray** didn't steal his armor! You won't want to miss this issue's shocking surprise ending! Written by **David Michelinie**, penciled by **Mark Bright**, and inked by **Bob Layton**. 75¢.

☐ **THE 'NAM #14** — You'll get a rare opportunity to see war through the eyes of the men who fight it as a storyteller named **Clark** tells tales of the Vietnam War and World War II. Of course, that doesn't mean things are always the way **Clark** tells them! Written by **Doug Murray** and illustrated by **Wayne Vansant**. 75¢.

☐ **THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #134** — He's been locked up since he murdered **Police Captain Jean DeWolff**. Now the doctors say the **Sin-Eater** is sane again . . . but is he? **Spider-Man** wants to know, but he's too busy to find out — he's fighting **Electro**! "Sin-Cere" is written by **Peter David**, penciled by **Sal Buscema**, and inked by **Vince Colletta**. 75¢.

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☐ **THE STAR BRAND #11** — At last, **Ken Connell** goes public with the Star Brand power! But the consequences are far beyond anything he ever expected! Written and penciled by **John Byrne** and inked by **Tom Palmer**. 75¢.

☐ **THOR** #387 — No matter what the challenge, Thor can handle it, right? Guess again! **Thor** faces the ultimate **Celestial**! Can even he survive the experience? Written by **Tom DeFalco**, penciled by **Ron Frenz**, and inked by **Bret Breeding**. 75¢.

☐ **X-FACTOR** #24 — Trapped aboard **Apocalypse's** ship of death, **X-Factor** makes its most terrifying discovery and faces *two* shocking betrayals! It's a saga that marks a major turning point in the lives of **X-Factor**! Written by **Louise Simonson**, penciled by **Walter Simonson**, and inked by **Bob Wiacek**. 75¢.

☐ **CARE BEARS** #14 — A strange disease sweeps through Care-a-Lot that turns the **Care Bears** into grouches — all except their resident grouch, **Grumpy**. **Grumpy** turns into a sainted soul! It makes for a mad and funny match-up for this strange new breed of **Care Bears** as they face the ever-evil **No-Heart** and his bizarre servant, **Beastly**! "The Great Grumpyitis Epidemic" is written by **David Poltor**, penciled by **Howie Post**, and inked by **Roberta Edelman**. A Star Comic. $1.00.

☐ **CLASSIC X-MEN** #17 — Re-presenting a classic tale from **THE UNCANNY X-MEN** #111. **The X-Men** are missing! And when **the Beast** tries to solve the mystery, the answer proves to be beyond his wildest imaginings! "Mindgames" is written by **Chris Claremont** and penciled by **John Byrne**. Plus: A new story by **Chris Claremont** and **John Bolton**. 32 pages. No ads. $1.00.

☐ **ELFQUEST** #30 — The **Elves** prepare to fight the **Trolls** for possession of Blue Mountain in an all-out "Final Battle!" Written by **Wendy** and **Richard Pini** and illustrated by **Wendy Pini**. An Epic Comic. $1.00.

☐ **THE TRANSFORMERS** #36 — There's no telling what will happen when a ragtag bunch of kids heads off into space and has to battle **Skylynx**! "Ship of Fools" is written by **Bob Budiansky**, penciled by **Jose Delbo**, and inked by **Ian Akin** and **Brian Garvey**. $1.00.

☐ **SPELLBOUND (Limited Series)** #1 — It's Marvel's first bi-weekly series! And it's a doozy!

Erica Fortune is the original bad luck girl. What she doesn't know is that she's also a person who possesses the incalculable power of a spellbinder! When the rampaging alien spellbinder, **Zxaxz**, bursts into her world and attacks her family, **Erica's** incredible power is suddenly — shockingly — revealed! And that's when **Erica's** problems *really* begin! "Power" is written by **Louise Simonson**, penciled by **Terry Shoemaker**, and inked by **Carl Potts**. 32 pages. Baxter paper. Direct Sales only. $1.50.

☐ **THE TRANSFORMERS COMIC MAGAZINE** #7 — From **THE TRANSFORMERS** #s 13 and 14: It's a strange twist on the classic "genie in a bottle" story when a down-and-out crook stumbles across **Megatron**! "Shooting Star" and "Rock and Roll Out" are written by **Bob Budiansky**, penciled by **Don Perlin**, and inked by **Al Gordon**. A Marvel Digest. 64 pages. $1.50.

☐ **CONAN SAGA** #8 — Re-presenting two more classic tales of everyone's favorite Cimmerian. **Conan** teams-up with **Red Sonja** and faces sorcery and death! "The Song of Red Sonja" is from CONAN THE BARBARIAN #24 and is written by **Roy Thomas** with art by **Barry Windsor-Smith**. "The Mirrors of Karam-Akkad" is from #25 and is written by **Roy Thomas** and drawn by **John Buscema**. A black-and-white Marvel Magazine. $2.00.

☐ **THE OFFICIAL MARVEL INDEX TO THE X-MEN** #5 — Continuing our issue-by-issue synopsis of the lives if **the X-Men**. Complete with full-color cover reproductions of every issue! In this issue: The debut of the **new X-Men**! Compiled by **George Olshevsky**. Direct Sales only. 48 pages. Baxter paper. $2.95.

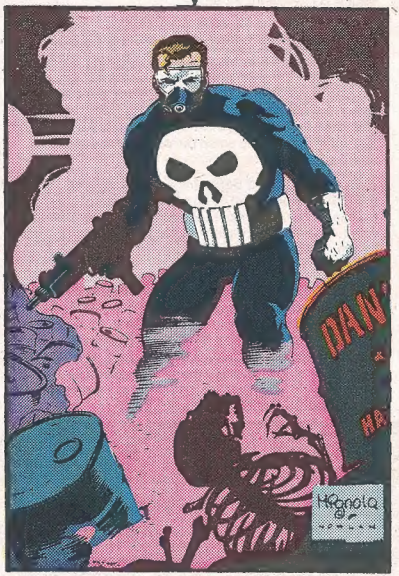
☐ **THE OFFICIAL HANDBOOK TO THE MARVEL UNIVERSE Trade Paperback** #7 — Reprinting issues #13 and 14 of the Limited Series in a deluxe paperback volume. Get the full lowdown on **Wolverine**, **Thor**, **the Vision**, and many more! Written by **Peter Sanderson** with art by **Brian Bolland**, **John Byrne**, **Walt Simonson**, **Mike Zeck**, and just about the whole blamed Bullpen! 128 pages. $6.95.

☐ **BLOOD (Limited Series)** #1 — In a mystical world, a man called **Blood** must go on a horrific series of adventures to regain his lost humanity. Written by **J. Marc DeMatteis** with full-painted illustrations by **Kent Williams**. Bookshelf format. Direct Sales only. $2.95.

☐ **I WHOM THE GODS WOULD DESTROY Graphic Novel**.— Imagine you're the mighty **Thor**. Part of the time, you're an immortal god. Part of the time, you're a mortal doctor. Each life comes with its own problems, and you've got the problems of both! And to top it all off, what do you do when you fall in love with a mortal woman? Written by **Jim Shooter** and **Jim Owsley**, penciled by **Paul Ryan**, and inked by **Vince Colletta**. 64-pages. $5.95.

He's big, he's mean, he's packed with enough power to destroy Earth — he's Zxaxz! And he's coming at you in SPELLBOUND, penciled by Terry Shoemaker and inked by Carl Potts.

MORE COMING ATTRACTIONS



The Punisher tackles the problem of toxic waste.

Titles Shipping October

DAREDEVIL #251 — by **Nocenti, Romita Jr.,** and **Williamson.**
THE NEW MUTANTS #60 — by **L. Simonson, Blevins,** and **Austin.**
PSI FORCE #16 — by **Nicieza.**
THE PUNISHER #6 — by **Baron** and **Janson.**
WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #35 — by **Conway** and **Saviuk.**
WEST COAST AVENGERS #29 — by **Englehart, Milgrom,** and **Machlan.**
G.I. JOE SPECIAL MISSIONS #9 — by **Hama** and **Trimpe.**
THUNDERCATS #20
CONAN THE BARBARIAN ANNUAL #11
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THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #297 — by **Michelinie, Saviuk** and **Colletta.**
STRANGE TALES #11 — by **Blevins, Wiacek, Gillis, Shoemaker,** and **Emberlin.**
GROO THE WANDERER #36 — by **Aragones** with **Evanier.**
HEATHCLIFF #22 — by **DeCesare, Kremer,** and **Roettcher.**
G.I. JOE YEARBOOK #4 — by **Hama.**
STAR COMICS MAGAZINE #8
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INCREDIBLE HULK #340 — by **David** and **McFarlane.**
JUSTICE #16
MARVEL TALES #208 — by **Claremont, Byrne, Mellor,** and **Albelo.**
SILVER SURFER #8 — by **Englehart** and **Rogers.**
THE UNCANNY X-MEN #226 — by **Claremont, Silvestri,** and **Green.**
AIR RAIDERS #4 — by **Mackie, Jones,** and **Sinclair.**
CONAN THE BARBARIAN #203 — by **Owsley, Semeiks,** and **Isherwood.**
G.I. JOE #68 — by **Hama, Wagner,** and **Emberlin.**
FLINTSTONE KIDS #4 — by **Gallagher, Colon,** and **Milgrom.**
FOOFUR #4 — by **Gallagher, Brown,** and **Roettcher.**
SILVERHAWKS #4 — by **Perry.**
DR. ZERO #1
MARSHAL LAW #2 — by **Mills** and **O'Neil.**
A SAILOR'S STORY Graphic Novel
FANTASTIC FOUR #311 — by **Englehart, Buscema,** and **Sinnott.**
IRON MAN #227 — by **Michelinie, Bright,** and **Layton.**
THE 'NAM #15 — by **Murray.**
THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #135 — by **David** and **S. Buscema.**
CLASSIC X-MEN #18 — by **Claremont, Byrne,** and **Bolton.**
THOR #388 — by **DeFalco** and **Frenz.**
X-FACTOR #25 — by **L. Simonson, W. Simonson,** and **Wiacek.**
MADBALLS #8 — by **Gallagher, Post,** and **Edelman.**
ELFQUEST #31 — by **W.** and **R. Pini.**
ST. GEORGE #1
THE TRANSFORMERS #37 — by **Budiansky.**
ALIEN LEGION #2 — by **Dixon** and **Stroman.**
G.I. JOE COMICS MAGAZINE #8 — by **Hama** and others.
THE OFFICIAL HANDBOOK TO THE MARVEL UNIVERSE DELUXE EDITION #20 — by **Sanderson** and others.
THE OFFICIAL MARVEL COMICS INDEX TO THE AVENGERS #5 — compiled by **Olshevsky.**
CONAN SAGA #9 — by **Thomas** and **J. Buscema.**
BLOOD #2 — by **DeMatteis** and **Williams.**

Titles Shipping November

DAREDEVIL #2521 — by **Nocenti, Romita Jr.,** and **Williamson.**
THE NEW MUTANTS #61 — by **L. Simonson, Blevins,** and **Austin.**
PSI FORCE #17 — by **Nicieza.**
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SOLO AVENGERS #4
THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #298
STRANGE TALES #12 — by **Austin, Blevins, Wiacek, Gillis, Shoemaker,** and **Emberlin.**
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MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE #60
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D.P. 7 #17 — by **Gruenwald, Ryan,** and **Bulanadi.**
INCREDIBLE HULK #341 — by **David** and **McFarlane.**
JUSTICE #17
MARVEL TALES #209 — by **Claremont, Byrne, Meior,** and **Albelo.**
SILVER SURFER #9 — by **Englehart** and **Rogers.**
THE UNCANNY X-MEN #227 — by **Claremont, Silvestri,** and **Green.**
AIR RAIDERS #5 — by **Mackie** and **Jones.**
CONAN THE BARBARIAN #204 — by **Owsley, Semeiks,** and **Isherwood.**
THE MUPPET BABIES #18 — by **Hitchcock** and **Severin.**
VISIONARIES #3 — by **Sailcrup, Bagley,** and **Tanghal.**
BULLWINKLE AND ROCKY #3 — by **Manak, Colon,** and **Roettcher.**
G.I. JOE #69 — by **Hama, Wagner,** and **Emberlin.**
MARVEL FANFARE #37 — by **Zelenetz** and **Vess.**
THE DEATH OF GROO Graphic Novel — by **Evanier** with **Aragones.**
FANTASTIC FOUR #312 — by **Englehart, J. Buscema,** and **Sinnott.**
IRON MAN #228 — by **Michelinie, Bright,** and **Layton.**
THE 'NAM #16 — by **Murray.**
THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #136
THE STAR BRAND #12 — by **Byrne** and **Palmer.**
THOR #389 — by **DeFalco** and **Frenz.**
X-FACTOR #26 — by **L. Simonson, W. Simonson,** and **Wiacek.**
CARE BEARS #15 — by **Poltor, Post,** and **Edelman.**
CLASSIC X-MEN #18 — by **Claremont, Byrne,** and **Bolton.**
ELFQUEST #32 — by **W.** and **R. Pini.**
THE TRANSFORMERS #38 — by **Budiansky, Akin,** and **Garvey.**
THE TRANSFORMERS COMICS MAGAZINE #8 — by **Budiansky** and **Perlin.**
THE OFFICIAL HANDBOOK TO THE MARVEL UNIVERSE Trade paperback #8
THE OFFICIAL MARVEL COMICS INDEX TO THE X-MEN #6 — compiled by **Olshevsky.**
CONAN SAGA #10 — by **Thomas** and **J. Buscema.**
BLOOD #3 — by **DeMatteis** and **Williams.**

The Thing mutates further in THE FANTASTIC FOUR #310, penciled by Keith Pollard and inked by Joe Sinnott.

NEWSWATCH

BYRNE IS BACK! DAVID PENS BOOK AND INKS PIC OPTION! HAMA OPTS TO FREELANCE! MURRAY COPS TOP VET HONORS! SIENKIEWICZ AND MUTH WOW FASHION WORLD!

ITEM: John Byrne is back — and booked to begin a six-issue run on THE STAR BRAND beginning with issue #11! John is tapped as both scribe and scribbler, and will be assisted in the inks by ace AVENGERS brushman **Tom Palmer**. John promises a new direction for the flagship New Universe series — a direction that sharp-eyed NEWSWATCH followers will have already spotted with the first-sentence reference here of the series' new title! The focus will shift from **Ken Connell**, possesser of the Star Brand, to that of the Star Brand itself! Ken will go public with his power, and that's when his trouble really begins! Expect the Star Brand to pop up in the hands of other people — but don't expect us to tell you who they are . . . or what happens! That's something that can only be seen in THE STAR BRAND!

ITEM: INCREDIBLE HULK and JUSTICE comics scripter **Peter David** has just become a *nouveau* novelist with his fantasy, KNIGHT LIFE. It's a rollicking book filled with myth, magic, and modern-day mayhem in Manhattan — and soon it may be a movie! The moguls of Gaylor Productions, producers of the made-for-T.V.-movie "Six Against The Rock" starring **David Carradine, Howard Hessman**, and **Jan-Michael Vincent**, and the theatrical flick "Ernest Goes To Camp," were so impressed they couldn't wait to sign the screen option! Keep your eyes on NEWSWATCH for further developments!

Meanwhile, Peter's decided to devote more time to his writing career, thus he's leaving his position as Marvel's Direct Sales Manager Administrative. That's good news for literature lovers everywhere!

ITEM: Another Marvel staffer has been bitten by the free-lance bug. CONAN THE BARBARIAN, THE SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN, THE 'NAM, and CONAN SAGA editor **Larry Hama** is leaving to spend more time on his many writing projects as well, among them G.I. JOE and G.I. JOE SPECIAL MISSIONS. Larry will continue on as Consulting Editor of THE 'NAM and the upcoming SEMPER FI and STEELTOWN ROCKERS series. The new ramrod of the Conan and combat comics is SILVER SURFER editor **Mike Higgins** who will be assisted on the titles by Larry's trusty assistant, Managing Editor **Pat Redding**. Good luck, Larry!

ITEM: Congratulations to THE 'NAM scripter **Doug Murray** who beat out such heavy-duty competition as the movie "Platoon" to win the Veterans Achievement Award for Entertainment by BRAVO, the Brotherhood Rally of American Veterans Organization. For fifteen years BRAVO has been in the forefront of the fight to get Vietnam vets the rights and recognition they deserve. We're all proud of what Doug's done, and even prouder to see him receive the honor of his peers for it. We'll have more information about the award, THE 'NAM's new artist **Terry Vansant**, and what new things are in store for the men of the 23rd Infantry, when we interview Doug Murray next issue.

ITEM: The movers-and-shakers of IN FASHION magazine know a trend when they see one, and the way they see it — the art and attire of **Bill Sienkiewicz** and **Jon J Muth** are *red hot!* The article in their July-August issue called Bill and Jon and a handful of other crack comic book creators part of the cutting-edge crew that ". . . revels in pop culture, not just comic culture. Each in his own way shows that comics are no longer kid stuff." We'd tell you more, but culture vultures that we are, we gotta get out of here and grab some of this new culture stuff ourselves before it gets away!

THE TOP TEN

And now, for the fact-hungry philonoist in you, here's a timely serving of Marvel's Top Ten for the month of May, 1987! In case some of you are wondering how we get a Top Ten (or for that matter, what the heck a philonoist is), our sharp-eyed Director of Specialty Sales, **Carol Kalish**, every month compiles a list of all the Marvel, Star, Epic and New Universe titles sold in the Direct Sales market. And the ten best-selling comics are the ones which make the Marvel Top Ten. Now, as for a philonoist, that's one of those high-falutin' words for a dyed-in-the-wool knowledge seeker. But before you skedaddle off to bamboozle your friends and boggle your English teacher, take a gander at our Top Ten — and join the ranks of the *beaux esprits*.

1 — **X-MEN #221**
2 — **X-FACTOR #20**
3 — **SILVER SURFER #3**
4 — **AMAZING SPIDER-MAN ANNUAL #21**
5 — **G.I. JOE #63**
6 — **AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #292**
7 — **THE 'NAM #10**
8 — **FALLEN ANGELS #6**
9 — **CLASSIC X-MEN #13**
10 — **THE NEW MUTANTS #55**

X-TRA THE MUTANT REPORT X-TRA

VOLUME 2 "THE NEXT STEP IN NEWS EVOLUTION" NUMBER 10

PERSECUTION, BETRAYAL, AND DEATH IN "THE FALL OF THE MUTANTS"

The bloody Mutant Massacre almost destroyed the X-Men, X-Factor, and the New Mutants. But as devastating as that event was, it's nothing compared to what the three mutant groups will encounter in the climax of the anti-mutant hysteria called "The Fall Of The Mutants."

It begins in September in THE NEW MUTANTS #59, X-MEN #225, and X-FACTOR #24, and before it concludes two months later, almost everything you know about all three groups will have changed! Be here next month for more details!

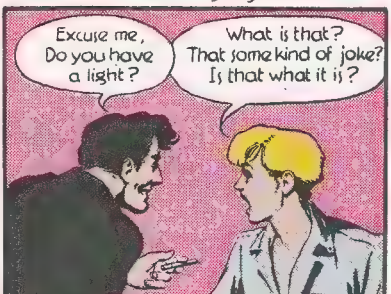
THE X-MEN IN "THE BEST OF MARVEL COMICS"

What's 256 pages long, sports a handsome hardcover binding, is overflowing with adventure and excitement, is priced at a mere $19.95, and is available at Sears stores and comics specialty shops everywhere by the time you read this? If you guessed THE BEST OF MARVEL COMICS, you're right!

Mutant watchers will immediately spot among the plethora of titanic tales of the past the emotionally-wrenching saga from X-MEN #183, "He'll Never Make Me Cry." Written by Chris Claremont, penciled by John Romita Jr., and inked by Dan Green, it relates the painful consequences within the X-Men over Colossus's break-up with Kitty Pryde, and the deadly consequences of Colossus's confrontation with the Juggernaut. In addition, THE BEST OF MARVEL COMICS features an all-new solo Wolverine adventure written especially for this anthology by Chris, penciled by Marshall Rogers, and inked by Randy Emberlin. It features Wolverine in Japan — a country where he's not wanted, alive *or* dead!

You'll also find collected in this deluxe volume classic tales of the Fantastic Four, Spider-Man, Captain America, Thor, Doctor Strange, the Black Panther and, well, we think you get the idea! So what are you waiting for? If you want to be with the best of 'em, check out THE BEST OF MARVEL COMICS.

'It's Genetic' by kyle baker.



It's hard being the Dazzler.

CAPTAIN AMERICA®

Nearly a half-century ago, a frail youth named **Steve Rogers** wished to enlist in the U.S. Army in order to help combat the Nazi threat in World War II. But, due to his poor physical condition, he was rejected. His perseverence, however, brought him to the attention of **Dr. Abraham Erskine**, the creator of the Super-Soldier formula.

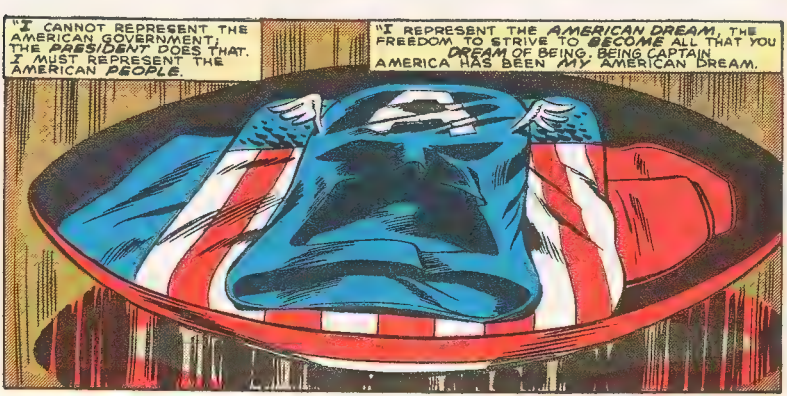
Acting as Erskine's guinea pig, Steve Rogers was administered the serum. The result: Rogers was transformed into the greatest soldier the world has ever known — **Captain America**! Throughout the war, he served as a special operative to the U.S. government and was revered as a symbol of freedom, a "living legend." Toward the end of the war an accident threw Captain America into a state of suspended animation. Many years later he was revived and continued to serve as America's symbol of justice and liberty.

. Until now.

In CAPTAIN AMERICA #332, Steve Rogers resigned. The President's Commission on Super-Human Activities confronted him with the cold, hard fact that the government created the concept of Captain America, not him. They informed him that he is just an actor playing the role created by bureaucrats. Since they own the concept, they decreed that Captain America should work for them and play by their rules. In essence, they wanted him to resume his official status as America's Super-Soldier, as per the terms of a contract he signed in 1941. As such, all his activities would be assigned and coordinated by the federal government. As their operative, Cap would no longer be free to act autonomously. He would be answerable only to the government and would have to do as they ordered.

Since Steve Rogers has been an independent agent since his revival from suspended animation, he found it difficult to imagine relinquishing his personal freedom. He felt that he had served the country well for years without bureaucratic direction. In fact, he asserted, working for the government would compromise his ability to represent the American *people!* Instead, he'd become more of a symbol of the American government like the President. Therefore, making the most difficult decision he has ever faced, Steve rejected their conditions for employment. In doing so, he gave up his shield, his uniform and the very name Captain America!

Subsequent issues of CAPTAIN AMERICA will focus on the man the Commission hired to replace Steve: **John Walker**, the original Super-Patriot. Walker had an older brother who was killed in the Vietnam conflict. Hoping to live up to his brother's heroism, he enlisted in the army as soon as he was old enough, which was long after the war had ended.


"I CANNOT REPRESENT THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT; THE PRESIDENT DOES THAT. I MUST REPRESENT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.
"I REPRESENT THE AMERICAN DREAM, THE FREEDOM TO STRIVE TO BECOME ALL THAT YOU DREAM OF BEING. BEING CAPTAIN AMERICA HAS BEEN MY AMERICAN DREAM.

Seeing no action in the service, he and a few of his army buddies learned of an organization called Power Broker, Inc., which specialized in granting people super-human strength. Walker thought he might be able to become a hero by increasing his strength.

Rather than join the Unlimited Class Wrestling Federation to pay for his treatment, as did most of Power Broker's enhanced individuals, John met an unscrupulous promoter named **Ethan Thurm**, who was **the Beyonder's** manager during his brief wrestling career. Thurm helped John develop the identity of the **Super-Patriot** and sent him around the country promoting patriotism and the American Dream. Walker's idea of the American Dream, however, was quite different from that of Steve Rogers. Walker believed the American Dream to mean pure capitalism, the opportunity to make a lot of money by ingenuity, hard work and shrewd investments. His means to achieve this dream was by exploiting patriotism.

"Basically, John Walker's heart is in the right place," said CAPTAIN AMERICA writer **Mark Gruenwald**. "He wants to be a good man — a hero. But unlike Steve Rogers, he sees nothing wrong with using his power and position for personal gain. I guess he's got a very yuppie view of heroism. Make no mistake, Walker *is* a patriot — he loves America just as much as Steve Rogers does. But other than that, anything that *can* be different about two men *is* different, including their background, their ideals and their concept of morality.

"Walker's love of capitalism isn't ugly or un-American," Mark added, "it just has nothing to do with what Captain America stood for before."

John Walker has more of a **Rambo** mentality than Steve Rogers. He believes that "might makes right," and being an American means always being right.

The early storylines in this saga will focus on John's attempts to determine just what his country (i.e. the government) demands from a Captain America. He started his career as the Super-Patriot by cutting down Captain America, preaching that Cap wasn't a viable or representative concept responsive to the will of the nation today. Now that he has literally become his opponent, he finds that representing a nation of almost 300 million people is trickier than he thought.

"Fans will discover that, unlike Steve Rogers who's had decades of experience, *this* Captain America can't always make the right decisions, can't always do the good thing, and doesn't automatically know what the good thing is in every circumstance," Mark said. "I hope they will learn something about what it means to be Captain America."

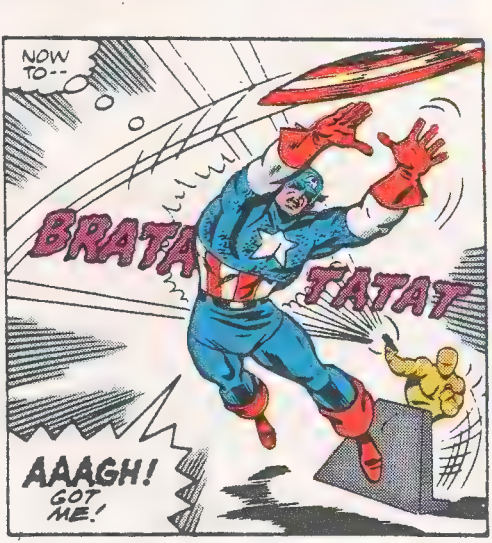
Mark Gruenwald originally conceived this storyline in response to a certain question often asked in fan mail: "Does Captain America automatically support the decisions and policies of any presidential administration, or does he have a mind of his own?"

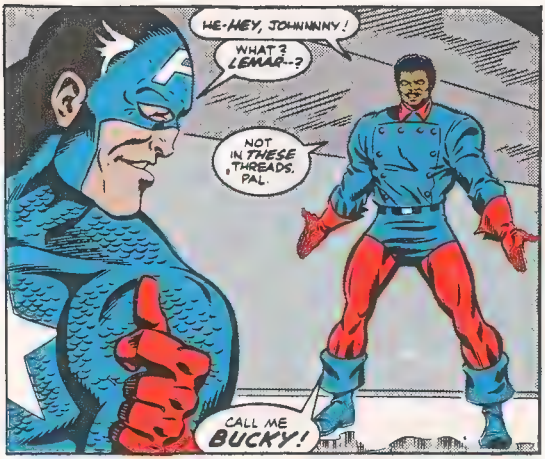
"I realized that the reason why people were asking this question was because no CAP writer has ever done a story which brings this issue into sharp focus: Just what is the relationship today between Cap and the government? Judging by the mail, I think fans have a lot of erroneous assumptions about Captain America's personal beliefs," Mark explained. "They somehow think he should be a conservative Republican despite the fact that he assumed his position during FDR's Democratic era. Cap is truly nonpartisan, not liberal or conservative. He doesn't represent any particular administration. He represents the entire country and its people."

In this storyline, Mark says that Steve Rogers is in for the worst time of his life. "You can't do anything worse to him than force him not to be Cap! It attacks the very foundations of his beliefs and the career he has devoted his life to."

As John Walker tries to live up to the Commission's expectations of Captain America, Steve Rogers will try to become the best hero he possibly can be, despite the incredible restrictions he must work under. Among other things, the Commission has slapped an injunction on him, forbidding him to wear red, white and blue. They don't want Steve to become a rival Captain America.

Undaunted, Steve dons a costume colored red, white and black and assumes the name **"the Captain."** He will be aided in his new adventures by three of his former partners: **the Fal-**





con, **Nomad** and **Demolition Man**. Meanwhile, the new Captain America will be aided by a new **Bucky**, whose strength was also augmented by the Power Broker. Of course, those two plotlines will converge to an eventual meeting between the two Caps.

"We'll be treating CAPTAIN AMERICA as a team book for a while," Mark Gruenwald said. "On the one hand we have the Captain and his former partners, and on the other we have the new Captain America and Bucky. We may even throw a *new* Super-Patriot into the works just to confuse everybody."

Mark expects that fans will initially dislike John Walker but will come to realize that there is nothing intrinsically wrong with him. "He's got a very tough act to follow and big boots to fill. He's doing his best but he just may not be up to it," he said.

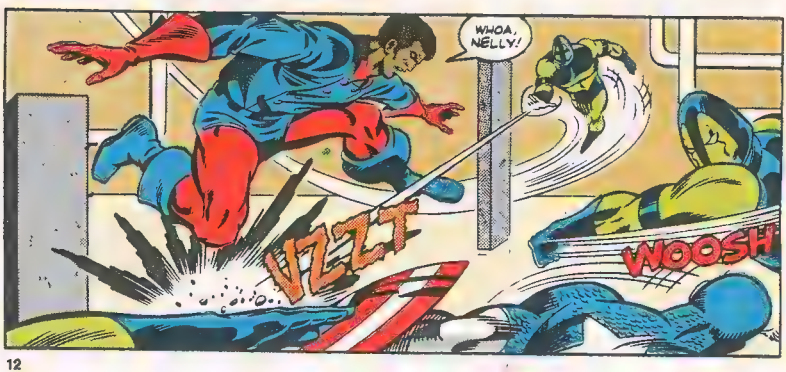
"I also hope the fans gain a new respect for Steve Rogers, a man who is so committed to his ideals that he is willing to walk away from everything that is meaningful to him." Mark points out that it will be very difficult for the Captain to operate without his reputation backing him up. In fact, in one of his first adventures, Steve gets arrested for interfering with the law, something that never would happen to someone with Captain America's credentials. But he is determined not to reveal to the public that he was the original star-spangled **Avenger**, in order not to give the government a bad name. Just because government representatives did him an injustice, he has no desire to promote widespread bad faith in the government itself. Although he no longer has the actual reputation of Cap to live up to, Steve must now continue to live up to his own self-image of what a hero should be.

The last time Captain America abandoned his uniform, he developed the guise of **Nomad**, "the man without a country." But that was of his own free choice, when Steve was questioning his patriotic identity. The Nomad character was an attempt to make a political statement. Steve's new identity has no such symbolic meaning. His new costume is just working attire for a hero trying to do his job.

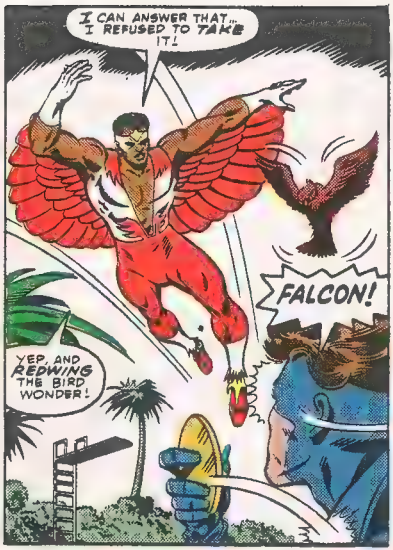
A number of new villains as well as familiar ones will be appearing in this saga. In some cases the new Captain America will battle an established felon from the past who is not expecting a different man in the uniform, especially one that can press 10 tons! On the other hand, the Captain will go up against some of his old foes, who will be equally dumbfounded by the change of costume.

Specifically, **the Serpent Society** will plan the most audacious scheme they've ever attempted. There will also be an X-FACTOR tie-in featuring **Famine**, one of **the Horsemen of the Apocalypse**.

In addition, Mark plans a crossover with IRON MAN, which will lead to a conflict between the Captain and the Armored Avenger as part of Shell-Head's ongoing attempt to neutralize all other armored characters. Their battle indirectly facilitates the escape of many super-powered villains from the Vault, the government's new maximum-security prison which detains such criminals. The Captain takes it upon himself to bring them to justice.



YOU TELLING ME CAP MADE YOU HIS PARTNER?
NOT OFFICIALLY, NOMAD. BUT HE DID TRUST ME TO TAKE CARE OF HIS COMPUTER HOTLINE TERMINAL SINCE HE'S BEEN ON...UH, LEAVE. I'VE BEEN RESPONDING TO HIS URGENT HOT LINE CALLS.
I'M SURE HE'D RATHERVE GIVEN IT TO YOU, BUT... YOU'RE A HARD GUY TO GET HOLD OF! I OUGHTTA KNOW, I'VE BEEN TRYING FOR OVER TWO WEEKS!
WHY DIDN'T HE GIVE IT TO THE FALCON? FALC WAS HIS PARTNER LONGER THAN ANYBODY!



Also in this crossover, **Tony Stark** will create a new shield for the Captain. Composed purely of adamantium, this shield will not be quite as good as the original. But who other than Tony Stark could create one nearly as good?

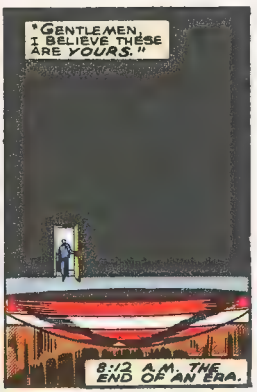
And speaking of **Iron Man**, what will he and the other Avengers say about this big change? Steve Rogers leaves a message on their answering machine saying that he is taking an extended leave of absence. He tells the Avengers that, due to their own problems with the government lately, it would not be in the team's best interest to associate with him. How they react remains to be seen.

Newcomer **Kieron Dwyer** will be assuming the penciling chores in issue #338. "Kieron is one of the most fluid, dynamic artists this book has had since **John Byrne** drew nine issues back in '81," Mark observed. "This is his first regular assignment and I think readers are going to be amazed to see how quickly he develops into a major talent.

"This is the most exciting period in Cap's life yet," Mark promises. "Anything can happen. We don't even know at this point if Steve Rogers will get his old suit back or if the new Cap will succeed." For the sake of the free world, let's hope that Captain America, in whatever guise, lives up to his reputation as "the living legend."

—Glenn Herdling

"MY COMMITMENT TO THE IDEALS OF THIS COUNTRY IS GREATER THAN MY COMMITMENT TO A 40-YEAR OLD DOCUMENT.
"I AM SORRY, BUT THAT'S THE WAY IT MUST BE.



STAN'S SOAPBOX

I don't believe it! You're not gonna tell me that a whole month has flown by since last we met! To me, it doesn't feel like a minute more than 31 days! Just goes to show how time flies when you're having fun!

And, speaking of fun, I've gotten a peek at the secret files of New World Pictures, so I can clue you in to some of the wonderment they've got in store on the big screen — and T.V. as well!

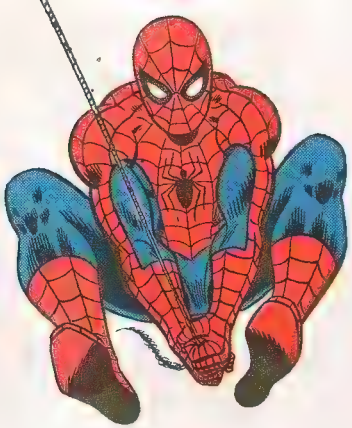
But first, just to keep up the suspense, let's talk about another of my all-time favorite subjects. No, no, **Irving**, I mean *besides* **Stan Lee**! Let's rap awhile about good ol' **Captain America**, comicdom's favorite wing-headed wonder who MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE is spotlighting this month.

One reason why I feel so sentimental about our shield-slingin' sentinel is because Cap was the hero of the very first story I ever wrote in comics, even though I didn't create him. He was the brainchild of one of the greatest old-time teams of all, **Joe Simon** and **Jack Kirby**. As a wide-eyed teenage comic book fan I never missed one of Cap's adventures, so you can imagine how thrilled I was when I came to work for Marvel (which was called Timely Comics in those prehistoric days) and Joe and Jack actually let me write one of his adventures as my first scripting assignment!

Y'know, it's amazing how Captain America has maintained his popularity for all these years. And another amazing thing is the number of artists and writers who've continued his adventures since Simon and Kirby first bestowed the red, white, and blue Avenger upon a gleeful and grateful human race! In fact, tell you what let's do — let's have another mildly magnificent, cataclysmic Marvel Contest! I'll ask **Slim-Jim Salicrup**, your exemplary editor, to award a special No-Prize with oak-leaf cluster to anyone who can name for us all the artists and writers who have worked on Captain America during the past (wouldja believe?!!) fifty years!

The reason I want the prizes to be awarded by Slim-Jim himself is — it means *he'll* haveta read all the letters we receive, instead of me! (Who says this isn't The Marvel Age of Buck-Passing!)

And, speaking of everybody's favorite Salicrup, did I tell ya that Jim and I attended a sensational bachelor party for **Spider-Man** in Oakland, California earlier this year? It was a real blast, complete with a wedding cake, a professionally staged battle between Spidey and the **Green Goblin** and all sorts of fun 'n games. Editor in Chief



Torrid Tom DeFalco was there, as well as **Peerless Peter David, Mighty Mark Gruenwald, Starry-Eyed Stevey Saffel** and even **Marvelous Marv Wolfman** and **Laid-Back Lennie** (he'll kill me for that) **Wein**! In fact, the festivities were so terrific that we may have to marry off a lot more of our costumed cutups just to give us an excuse for more parties! (And y'all come, hear?!!)

Well, so much for the society column. Now let's tackle the heavy stuff . . .

I promised you more inside info about New World's upcoming movie and T.V. blockbusters, and us *nouveau* Hollywood types never ever break our promises — though we may bend 'em just a bit! Anyway, fasten your seatbelts 'cause here we go . . .

Last ish I told you that **Whoopi Goldberg** would be starring in THE TELEPHONE, but I was sworn to secrecy about the plot. Well, now it can be revealed! Wondrous Whoopi gives a *tour de force* performance as an eccentric actress who acts out various characters as she spends an outrageous evening on the phone. This one stars everyone's favorite comedienne in a role both refreshing and completely different from anything she's done before. It co-stars **Elliot Gould, John Heard, Severn Darden** and your old friend **Herve Villechaize** in cameo appearances. Don't say I didn't tip you off!

Look, do you like adventure, excitement and dancing all rolled up into one exotic cinematic package? Then KANDYLAND is for you, Bunky! It stars **Conan the Barbarian's** once and former girl friend **Sandahl Bergman** as a glamorous showgirl, and that alone oughta be worth the price of admission!

But hey, let's talk television! Do you realize that New World Television, only one year old, is now one of the three biggest producers of T.V. shows in the industry?!! Besides the daytime series SANTA BARBARA, they've got CRIME STORY, RAGS TO RICHES, SLEDGE HAMMER, TRUE COLORS and TOUR OF DUTY. And, if you're a fan of THE 'NAM (and who isn't!), you mustn't dare miss TOUR OF DUTY. It's only sensational!

Did I just hear you shout "What about video cassettes?" Well, glad you asked! Even as your startled eyes peruse these pandemonious paragraphs, good ol' New World Video is releasing (just 'cause they love ya!) DEATH BEFORE DISHONOR; plus, the two-hour pilot of CRIME STORY; in addition to the hands-down winner of "The Most Far-Out Title of the Century" award, NICE GIRLS DON'T EXLODE! And that's only the tip of the iceberg! (Icebergs don't come cheap! We can't go around squandering them!)

Anyway, now that I've got your attention, do you see why the whole blushin' Bullpen is so excited about teaming up witt those fabulous New World filmmakers? Movies! T.V.! Video cassettes! You won't be able to escape us anywhere!

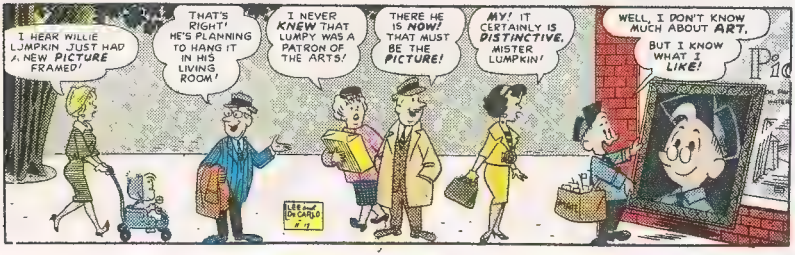
But the best is yet to come! Next issue I'll be telling you about the new movie and T.V. projects we're working on with New World which feature our own splendiforous super heroes! That's right, frantic one, it's finally happening! Nearly every one of our magniloquent Marvel superstars will be on the screen almost faster than you can buy the tickets! And wait'll I tell you which of your favorite writers will be doing some of the scripting — but I've got to save something for next month!

So, till we meet again, be sure to ask yourself the burning question, "Have you hugged your comic book lately?" And, wherever you go, whatever you do, remember — thanks to mixed-up Marvel and nifty New World, the whole blamed universe of entertainment is about to be wilder than ever! How do I know? Hey, True Believer — trust me!

Excelsior!

Stan

WILLIE LUMPKIN © 1987 by Stan Lee and Dan DeCarlo


I HEAR WILLIE LUMPKIN JUST HAD A NEW PICTURE FRAMED!
THAT'S RIGHT! HE'S PLANNING TO HANG IT IN HIS LIVING ROOM!
I NEVER KNEW THAT LUMPY WAS A PATRON OF THE ARTS!
THERE HE IS NOW! THAT MUST BE THE PICTURE!
MY! IT CERTAINLY IS DISTINCTIVE, MISTER LUMPKIN!
WELL, I DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT ART, BUT I KNOW WHAT I LIKE!
LEE and DeCARLO

HI, EVERYONE! I'M CAPTAIN AMERICA, AND, AS PROMISED LAST TIME, I'D LIKE TO SHARE SOME PRESIDENTIAL PROFILES WITH YOU...
NOW, THIS IS ZACHARY TAYLOR --HE WAS OUR 12th CHIEF EXECUTIVE...
...HERE WE HAVE WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON, PRESIDENT NUMBER 9...
...AND NUMBER 23, HIS GRANDSON, BENJAMIN HARRISON...
HOLD IT! HOLD IT RIGHT THERE!
--BUT NO! NOW I KNOW JUST HOW WRONG I WAS! YOU'RE THE SUPER PATRIOT, THE SLIME BUCKET WHO'S BEEN TAILING AND TAUNTING THE REAL CAPTAIN AMERICA FOR MONTHS!!
HEY, HEY, HEY!!
I'M REALLY NOT SUCH A BAD GUY WHEN YOU GET TO KNOW ME. BESIDES, I'D DO ANYTHING MY COUNTRY ASKS ME TO DO, WHICH IS MORE THAN I CAN SAY FOR ROGERS.
THAT'S WHAT MAKES ME A HERO AND HIM A HASBEEN!
YEAH, WELL. THAT DOESN'T MEAN I'VE GOTTA LIKE IT, BUT WE DID PROMISE THE FOLKS SOME PROFILES, SO.....
--GIMME SOME OF THOSE!!

FRED HEMBECK © 1987 FRED HEMBECK

oh, IT'S YOU HEMBECK. DON'T WORRY--I WAS SAVING JAMES K. POLK FOR YOU...
NEVER MIND THAT! MY COPY OF CAPTAIN AMERICA #333--WHICH HAD BEEN MYSTERIOUSLY MISSING--FINALLY TURNED UP.
THE COVER-UP'S OVER PAL. I FINALLY KNOW WHO YOU REALLY ARE.
I'M CAPTAIN AMERICA.
YOU'RE THE SUPER PATRIOT!!
Y'KNOW, IT TOOK ME AWHILE TO ADJUST WHEN I FOUND OUT STEVE ROGERS WAS NO LONGER UNDER THAT STAR-SPANGLED COWL* BUT I FINALLY DID IT--I MADE THE ADJUSTMENT.
*MARVEL AGE Annual #3
I EVEN TREATED YOU CIVILLY WHEN WE TOURED WASHINGTON, D.C. RECENTLY,* BECAUSE I FIGURED WHOEVER YOU WERE UNDER THAT MASK, YOU HAD TO BE SOMEONE FAIRLY DECENT...
*LAST ISSUE
... DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER, OUR 34th PRESIDENT...
...OKAY, LET'S SEE... NO, NOT THAT ONE...
Ah!
HERE, THIS ONE'S MORE UP YOUR ALLEY...

BLOOD™ a tale

This summer Epic Comics presents a very special four-issue Limited Series. Titled BLOOD, this psychological thriller is the story of one man's quest to discover truth in a strange, mysterious world. Along the way he meets vampires, religious fanatics, and the dead. Eerie, action-packed, and decidedly different, BLOOD is written by ***J.M. DeMatteis****, creator of MOONSHADOW and GREENBERG THE VAMPIRE and writer of the six-part* ***Spider-Man*** *vs.* ***Kraven*** *saga. The art is fully painted by* ***Kent Williams****, and the entire series is being produced in the new book-shelf format.*

MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE got together with J.M. DeMatteis to find out what dark secrets BLOOD offers, what revelations readers can expect, and what the writer has to say about one of the most talked about concepts to come along in quite some time.

BLOOD is considered a rather different comic book concept. What can you tell us about it?

BLOOD is the strangest thing I've ever worked on. We're calling it a "tale," and that's what it is, an allegorical tale. It's part psychological fantasy, part zen allegory, part horror story. The main character is a vampire, but it's not a conventional vampire story. It's almost a dream tale. In fact, it's a tale within a tale. Every issue begins and ends with a typeset framing sequence wherein a woman tells us the story of BLOOD. What is BLOOD? Good, bad, or indifferent, even I can't classify it.

Still you must have a reason for calling it BLOOD.

BLOOD is the main symbol and recurring theme of the series. It's also the name of the main character. One of the nice things about this project is I'm getting to try some new techniques. I'm trying to consciously write from my subconscious, when that part of the mind takes over and does the work itself. I'm trying to get to that point right at the start. For example, originally the main character wasn't going to have a name. Then about half way through the first issue my subconscious took over and the character named himself **Blood**. We follow Blood through his whole life. We meet him at his birth, but it's far from a standard hospital scene. He rises out of a sea of blood and is discovered by a woman, much like **Moses** in the Bible. We experience his boyhood, watch as he is raised in the woman's cave. Then we walk with him when he is turned over to monks in a monastery and his story really begins.

Where does the story take place?

The world that this tale takes place on is just a world. It could be the world of 10,000 years ago or the world of 10,000 years in the future. I see it basically as a world that exists in my own mind. At the monastery, the character that becomes Blood discovers that

basically everything he was taught to believe his entire life — morality, religion, everything he's been involved with — is a lie. So he sets out into the world to search for truth. We follow him from this point on, and shortly thereafter he enters a forest of vampires. In a grueling confrontation, Blood becomes a vampire himself.

So Blood is a vampire?

He becomes a vampire, and although he requires blood to feed, he is never corrupted by his vampiric state. We follow him across this strange world as he seeks a resolution to his quest. And it is a quest, not for a sword or a gem or a Holy Grail, but for something intangible. It's an internal quest. Blood doesn't even know what he's looking for. He won't know until he finds it, and neither will we.

How did this whole concept come about?

I had the concept bounding around in my head for awhile now. As I neared the completion of MOONSHADOW it started to demand more and more attention. It was a story I wanted to do, but I almost couldn't express it in words as to what it was about. Now Kent Williams lives near me and is a friend of mine. We wanted to do something together for a long time and he showed me some sketches for a world he was designing. He had vampire drawings, an island of the dead, faceless ones, all designed as though they existed on the same world. These sketches just clicked perfectly with the concept I was developing. From there I created BLOOD with Kent's visual designs in mind.

Tell us more about BLOOD's world.

There's almost no semblance to this world. You can turn a corner and end up anywhere, as will literally happen in the series. By the end of the second issue, where Blood ends up is totally mind-boggling. It's a world of anywhere and anytime, a world filled with vampires, holy ones living in a monastery, an isle of the dead. Blood goes to this island to save a friend. He visits the Valley of Pain, where all the wretched refuse of the earth abide. It's a very strange array in a very strange world. I hesitate to say the setting is dreamlike, because when you think of dreams you think of something disjointed, something without consistency. BLOOD has consistency. It's a very linear story. But time and space jump around within the context of the story, because that's the way the world works. One scene he is in the Forest of Vampires, the next he is in a desert examining a World War II airplane. It's a linear dream. I see it in very psychological terms. This world is the map we have in our own minds.

Tell us about Kent's art and his contribution to the series.

Kent is fully painting the series in water color. He's an extraordinary artist. I liken him to **Jon J Muth** only in the sense that they both know how to paint. They're friends and there's a certain spirit to their work that unites them, but Kent's work is very distinct and different from Jon's. It's a little

more visceral. Jon's is like clouds, Kent's like earth. His stuff is very beautiful. The nice thing about this project for both of us is that we're getting better as we go along. In the first issue his visuals are great, but by the end of the second issue they're extraordinary. And that's praise from my heart. You see traces of fine artists when you look at Kent's paintings. But it's also very gutsy. Kent gave me the visual design for BLOOD, I provided the structure, themes, and intents of the story.

You've continually gone back to horror themes over the years. What's your fascination with the genre?

I don't know what it is that entices me. Until I started out at DC years ago doing HOUSE OF MYSTERY stories, I never thought twice about vampires. But the editors wanted those kind of stories. As I researched these creatures and themes, the ideas just started working their way through my system. But in BLOOD, vampires aren't treated in the typical clichéd way. They don't turn into bats or any-

thing like that. Like in GREENBERG, I see vampires as symbolic of the fact that we're all damned and looking for redemption. A vampire is a very concrete image to show that. They used to be very nice folks like you and me, then something happened and they fell from grace. Now they're looking for a way back. At least my vampires are. Maybe that's the fascination. The symbol that permeates this new series is blood. Blood is life, blood is death, and it's everything in between. I'm letting my subconscious go and it's telling this story for me. So much of it is a surprise for me that I don't even pretend to understand every symbol in the tale. They pop up of their own accord and that makes it interesting for me and, I hope, the reader. BLOOD is certainly the most exciting project since MOONSHADOW that I've worked on.

What are the vampires in BLOOD like?

They have a very strong need for blood. In the forest, the other vampires are animalistic, primitive. They roam in packs, hunting together, feeding together. Blood doesn't quite understand why, but he isn't corrupted by this need. But eventually he has to face what he's become and this urges him to complete his quest.

It all seems grim and serious, but are there other aspects to BLOOD as well?

Oh, yes. There's a very real sense of humor that crept in as a dark thing. The humor comes together in a character called **Little One**. He adds an element of humor to a story that can be very serious at times. Another nice thing is that BLOOD can be considered a sword and sorcery adventure. There's blood and gore and guts all through it. Lots of good action sequences are interspersed within the context of the story. It's more visceral than MOONSHADOW. BLOOD goes for the gut. It's more primitive, more primal. And it lends itself to this kind of violence.

Any other feelings about this project?

BLOOD is as much a journey of discovery for me as I write it as it is for the character on his quest in the story. That's been the real joy, watching the whole thing evolve. In the beginning I was distant from it. As the process of creation goes along, I'm feeding into the tale and it's feeding into me. Just on the creative level it's a lot of fun. It's a challenge, an extra-special project that means something to me personally. I think it will also mean something to everyone who reads it and goes along with BLOOD on his journey.

—Bill Slavicsek

You've seen TV versions of comic book heroes and comics adaptations of TV series. What possible permutations are left? The answer can be found this August when Marvel presents CAPTAIN JUSTICE!

Imagine a comic book hero who has jumped from a TV series about a super hero from the comics. It's a two-part adventure on high-quality Baxter paper, available only through the direct sales market for $1.25.

"*True Colors*," a new television series set to premiere in the fall, features a super hero by the name of **Captain Justice**, who literally leaps from the pages of his own comic book into "reality" to combat his magazine's lack of popularity. Writer **J.M. DeMatteis** (author of the recent **Spider-Man** vs. **Kraven** saga, and Epic's MOONSHADOW and BLOOD) is adapting the original screenplay of the premiere TV episode by **Dusty Kay**. Penciling and inking CAPTAIN JUSTICE is **Steve Leialoha**.

The story focuses on **Abner Beevis**, an aging comic book writer who has spent years chronicling the exploits of his creation, Captain Justice. Unfortunately, the comic book's support has faded over time, and the publisher tells Abner he intends to cancel it. Somehow, through a process known only to comics and TV writers, Captain Justice is aware of the danger to his two-dimensional world and, like any true super hero, vows to fight against it.

The four-color character fantastically steps out of his comic book and into the real world! Abner is understandably amazed, but he's delighted to throw away the same old plotlines which he had used over and over, and he quickly prepares new, innovative concepts for the comic, aided of course by Captain Justice himself.

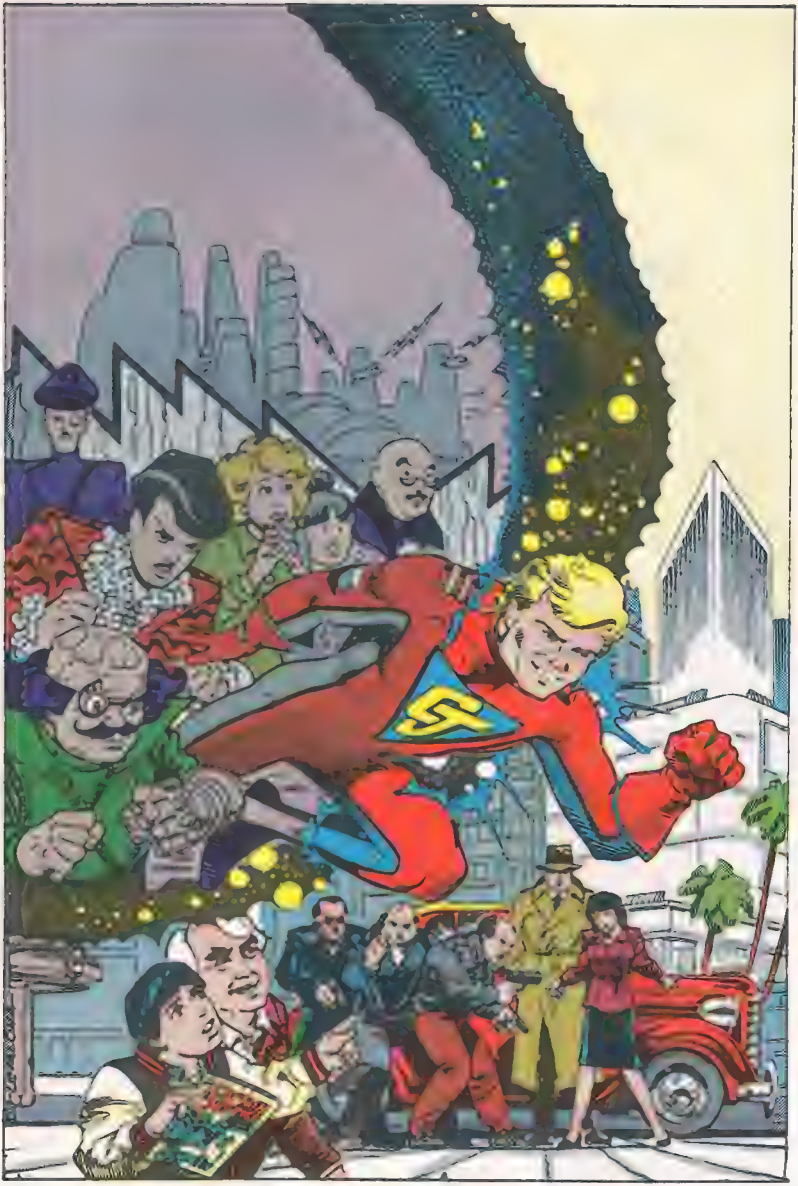
Captain Justice wins, the popularity of his series increases, and the comic book's publisher puts its cancellation on hold. The hero's alter ego, **Brad Steele**, knows that he and Abner must maintain the comic's high quality if they're both to survive.

Brad is able to travel back and forth between our reality and his whenever he wants. There are two problems with his presence in our reality, though. One, he has absolutely no super powers here; two, the more time he stays in this world may decrease his chances of returning to his own.

Captain Justice should just go back to his home and stay there, right? It's not that easy. Brad has fallen in love with **Emma**, a woman in the real world. He also loves a character in his comic, **Rachel**, who is every bit as real to him as Emma. Adding to Captain Justice's trouble will be the attack of his archnemesis, **Max Mayhem**.

Remember, Captain Justice can only survive with the support of his audience. So be alert for any strange movements on your comic book pages this August, and prepare for the arrival of CAPTAIN JUSTICE!

—*Ken Hart*



STAR® SPOTLIGHT

AIR Raiders™

Imagine a fantastic world where the forces for good and evil fight over the most precious commodity of all: air! Beginning in early August that's exactly what you'll see as AIR RAIDERS joins the Star Comics line.

On the distant world of Airlandia, breathable air has become almost nonexistent, putting the planet's entire population in peril. Even more unfortunately, this is being exploited by some of Airlandia's — shall we say — less likable inhabitants. **Aerozar**, the new series' main villain, has taken control of the planet. He's fully aware that fresh air is more valuable than gold. The air is mined and distilled in refineries, and Aerozar makes certain that he reaps the biggest profit possible from its distribution to the nearly suffocating masses. Control of the air also gives the evil ruler complete control of Airlandia's vegetation. His warning is simple: obey Aerozar or die! What alternatives do the people have left?

Well, as writer **Howard Mackie** (CHUCK NORRIS KARATE KOMMANDOS) and artist **Kelley Jones** (COMET MAN, MICRONAUTS) describe in the first issue of AIR RAIDERS, some of the people decide to fight back against Aerozar's tyranny. Uniting themselves into a small rebel band very much like **Robin Hood** and his Merry Men, these heroes battle for justice as the **Air Raiders**!

Leading the rebels under the slogan of "Free Air for Free People" is the "Robin Hood" of our adventure, **General Rokk**. Directing the Air Raiders' attacks is the valiant **Admiral Fury**, who'll mostly be seen as a background character, at least for the present.

These heroes have vowed to continue to fight Aerozar and his four allies, **the Tyrants of Winds**, until ultimately the air is free for all to breathe!

Their battle will be waged not only in the comics, but also over the air waves in the form of a syndicated animated T.V. series!

Is 1987 the beginning of the age of the Air Raiders — or of Aerozar? The battle lines are drawn.

— Ken Hart

Ooops! Looks like we got so excited about Star Comics' latest title, AIR RAIDERS, that we accidentally assigned two MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE reporters to the same story! Both clever ***Ken Hart*** *and sleuthing* ***Sandy Hausler*** *did such bang-up jobs, we thought we'd run both articles here anyway! Leave it to mixed-up Marvel to give you twice the in-depth coverage of this nifty new Star blockbuster!*

The phone rang on Saturday night. It was **Dwight Zimmerman**, assistant editor of MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE. It figures. Dwight always has bad timing. I'd been communing with a blue-eyed blonde, initiating her into the pleasures of . . . HEATHCLIFF. Dwight had an assignment for me. Star Comics was putting out a new title. Something called AIR RAIDERS. "Can you handle it?" he asked me. I hung up. Of course I'd handle it. That was my job. I left the blonde with a pile of comic books and went to work. It's tough sometimes when you work the Star Comics beat.

The man I had to see was **Howard Mackie**. In the old days finding him would be a problem. When he first came to Marvel, Howard was the office mystery man. No one saw much of him, not even his boss, **Mark Gruenwald**. No one even knew what he looked like. Now that he's editor of the New Universe line, he's a lot more visible and a whole lot busier. I finally managed to get Howard to sit still long enough to tell me something about his new project. You see, Howard is the writer of AIR RAIDERS.

AIR RAIDERS takes place on another world — one known as Airlandia. Let me tell you, Airlandia's a planet with big problems. You see, a long time ago a comet came along and ripped away most of the planet's atmosphere. Air has become a rare and valuable commodity, more valuable than silver or gold, for without air, no one can live. And the person who controls the air supply, rules the world.

Of course, as you would expect, the person who controls the air supply of Airlandia is a creep. His name is **Aerozar**, and he rules Airlandia with an iron fist, sharing power with no one except for **the Tyrants of Wind**, his loyal vassals. With this bunch of nogoodniks in charge, you can bet that life is pretty rough for the average Airlandian.

So of course something has to give. You can't oppress people forever without some resistance. The response to Aerozar's reign of terror was the development of an underground movement. These rebels are known as the **Air Raiders**. Their slogan is — FREE AIR FOR FREE MEN!

Naturally, Aerozar and his men are not going to sit back and let the populace rebel. They're out to crush the rebellion any way they can. And they not only control the air supply used for breathing, but they also control a supply of a very valuable substance known as galvanic air. Galvanic air is Airlandia's power source. It powers their vehicles. It powers their weapons. It powers everything.

The Air Raiders, however, have resources of their own. Led by **Fury** and **Rokk**, this rebel band (whose members include **Hook**, **Jad**, **Eeleta**, **Fitz**, and **Jasun**) strike Aerozar again and again, taking what air they can get to help the people of Airlandia.

The weapons used by both Aerozar and the Air Raiders are not only air powered, but are air-based as well. For instance, two weapons that you will see in upcoming issues of AIR RAIDERS are the Freeze Breeze and the Dragon Wind. These galvanically-charged armaments will prove instrumental to the ultimate fate of Airlandia.

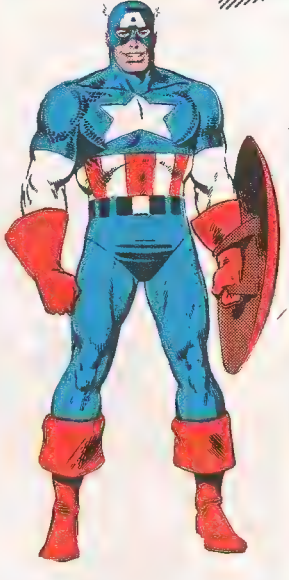
Not only will Air Raiders fans be able to thrill to their adventures each month in their own comic book, but they will be able to see their heroes' adventures in an animated series. And for those who can't get enough of the Air Raiders, there will be a whole line of Air Raiders toys from Hasbro.

Joining Howard Mackie in chronicling the adventures of these Airlandian freedom fighters is artist **Kelley Jones**. Kelley is well suited for the art chores on AIR RAIDERS as he cut his baby teeth on another Marvel science fiction title — THE MICRONAUTS.

I was convinced. Star has another sure hit on its hands. When I got back to the apartment, the blonde (What was her name?) was asleep. It didn't matter. I just got to work at the typewriter to tell everybody not to miss a single issue of AIR RAIDERS.

—Sandy Hausler

MARVEL® TRIVIA QUIZ



Can you believe what's happening in CAPTAIN AMERICA? Amazing, isn't it? But then, **Cap's** book has always been the source for controversy. I recall a time during the early 70s, when "Let's Rap With Cap" was the most provocative letters page around. Folks would write in and discuss not only the latest shield-slinging epic, but also the political philosophy of America itself! Reading the lettercol was like watching an episode of *Firing Line!*

And then there were the stories themselves . . . we thought Cap died, in an amazing brace of tales by **Jim Steranko**. We saw him quit, in a legendary epic by **Steve Englehart**. We saw him asked to run for the Presidency, in a thought-provoking **Stern 'n' Byrne** story. And who knows what **Mark Gruenwald** may do with him next?

Cap's always been blessed with extraordinary creators writing and drawing his exploits — and it's only fitting, isn't it? After all, along with the **Sub-Mariner**, the **Human Torch** and **Ka-Zar**, he's one of the original Marvel heroes. But don't worry — as complete as it is, this month's Cap-oriented trivia quiz doesn't expect you to have been around for the last forty-five years, the way Cap has! As usual, the first few questions cover recent history, while the second half of the quiz addresses Cap epics of the 70s and the 60s. Enjoy puzzling out the answers, check the correct answers on page 32, and while you're working on it, cast your mind back to the first Cap story you ever read. For me, it was picking up a copy of TALES OF SUSPENSE, and seeing the **Red Skull** holding a city captive in a gigantic force bubble! What was your first Cap story? Remember the magic?

—Brian Nelson

1. During the war, "The Stars and Stripes" was a great GI paper — but what meaning does that phrase have for Cap today?

2. Which law school is **Bernadette Rosenthal** attending?

3. Cap and his longtime friend, **Hawkeye**, recently found themselves switching weapons in battle — Cap with **Clint's** arrows, Clint with Cap's shield. What team of opponents provoked this unusual move?

4. Multiple choice time! As what late super-villain did Cap disguise himself to trap **Scourge**?

A) **Firebrand**
B) the **Blue Streak**
C) the **Water Wizard**
D) **Mirage**

5. Besides their rank, what do **Captains Marvel** and America share that no other **Avengers** do?

6. Whose last words were, "Please, Captain, I implore you, kill me, kill me, you — you — !"

7. What do **Gail Runciter** and **Rachel Leighton** have in common?

8. **Lyle Dekker**, special effects wizard, created, and later inhabited, what robotic doppelganger of the good Captain?

9. What late hero fought injustice under two identities, the cowl of Captain America, and the mask of **the Patriot**?

10. How did **Sharon Carter** die?

11. Cap's 200th issue featured a villain who bore a grudge against **Steve Rogers**, ever since his ancestor in the Revolutionary War was insulted by an ancestor of Cap's. Who was this ne'er-do-well?

12. CAPTAIN AMERICA'S BICENTENNIAL BATTLES introduced Cap to what Elder of the Universe?

13. Why was **Quentin Harderman** one of Cap's most dangerous enemies?

14. One of Cap's closest friends is **Dave Cox**, a pacifist whom he met when in battle against what slimy group of nasties?

15. For two brief issues, Cap was convinced that **Bucky** had also survived World War II — but behind the "Bucky Lives!" scheme was the nefarious man known as **the Hood**. Who was the Hood?

16. Where did Cap and **Sam Wilson** meet?

17. When Cap first left the Avengers, whom did he refer as his replacement?

18. Back in the Big One (and as seen in many a flashback), what foul-tempered non-com was Steve Rogers' direct superior in the Army?

19. Before Cap's actual comeback in the early 60s, one villain posed as Captain America to battle the Human Torch — can you recall who?

20. According to the song — yes, the song — what must happen when Captain America throws his mighty shield?

THE MARVEL® AGE 1975 (PT. 4)

Two big trends in comics were in full flourish in 1975 — sword and sorcery, and the martial arts! They brought an exotic flavor to Marvel that had rarely been seen before! This go-round, let's plunge into jungles, wildernesses and prehistoric civilizations with the likes of **Conan**, **Red Sonja**, **Ka-Zar**, **T'Challa**, and **Shang-Chi**!

Conan's year began with a multi-part adaptation by **Roy Thomas**, **John Buscema**, **Joe Sinnott**, and **Dan Adkins** of *Kothar and the Conjurer's Curse*, by the late, great **Gardner Fox**. A six-chapter epic, this tale brought Conan into combat against **Shokkoth**, the crystalline hulk; a horde of demonic goblins; the warriors of **Torkal Moh**; and the monstrous serpent, **Pthassiasa** — and that was just for starters! Along with the wolf-woman **Lupalina**, Conan fought to rescue the beautiful **Stefanya**, and restore her to her rightful princesshood — but that meant defeating **Unos**, the man-witch whose eyes dealt death! No sooner had Conan accomplished that noble task than he was off on another epic, joining the condottiere of his old friend, **Murilo**! A new friend, **Tara**, joined Conan and Murilo against a scorpion god come to life, as well as **Clawfoot**, **Slicer**, and **Steelskull**, the infamous **Brothers of the Blade**! The quest for the Ring of the Black Shadow brought the Shadow to life itself, an unstoppable menace that could only be conquered by pitting it against another monster, the scorpion god! And you thought you had problems! Conan, Murilo, Tara, and Tara's new friend **Yusef** escaped with their lives, but only barely — whereupon Conan rode with Tara and Yusef to rob, freeboot, and carouse in Argos! The year closed with Tara and Yusef falling for each other, and Conan alone, ready in 1976 to meet the greatest love of his life!

But that's a tale for the few months from now! Meanwhile, Conan fans had plenty of other tales to keep them busy in '75! SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN adapted some of the greatest **Robert E. Howard** epics in magazine-length form — classics such as "Iron Shadows in the Moon," "A Witch Shall Be Born," and "People of the Dark!" **Blackmark** was also serialized in SAVAGE SWORD, and **Kull** put in an appearance as well, returning to Atlantis in the wake of losing his kingdom. GIANT-SIZE CONAN presented the ultimate Conan novel, "Conan the Conqueror," in another multi-part saga that introduced Conan to his future wife **Zenobia**, brought him into conflict against the wizard **Xaltotun**, and led him to his greatest triumph in "The Hour of the Dragon!" When GIANT-SIZE CONAN discontinued, SAVAGE SWORD picked up the reins, keeping Hyboriaphiles ever satisfied!

Kull received his own magazine briefly in 1975: KULL AND THE BARBARIANS! While he journeyed to the Pictish Isles in search of allies against **Thulee Doom**, we were also treated to the origin of Red Sonja, new chapters of Blackmark, and **Solomon Kane** fighting zombies in Africa! Red Sonja put in another appearance that year in the pages of MARVEL FEATURE, the heroine of the Howard adventure, "The Temple of Abomination!"

Let's say you craved still more savage tales . . . you could always turn to the magazine of the same name! Ka-Zar and **Shanna the She-Devil** were the stars of SAVAGE TALES, fighting the Billion-Year War against aliens who came to the

Savage Land, and exploring the lost city of Palandor! Shanna also enjoyed solo exploits, trailing the murderer known as **Raga-Shah** — and **Brak the Barbarian** also ventured into SAVAGE TALES, just to keep the wide variety of sword and sorcery at its Marvelous best!

Ka-Zar headlined his own comic as well, which brought him and his loyal sabretooth, **Zabu**, into contact with more lost cities, into conflict with more strange cults, and into combat with more tyrannical sorcerer-kings! On a revenge mission for a friend, Ka-Zar was separated from Zabu, and tracked him to the city of Gondora, where the evil priest, **Sandratha**, was about to sacrifice Zabu to a volcano! "The Man Who Hunted Dinosaur" introduced Ka-Zar to a latter-day **Cain** and **Abel**, Savage-Land style, and later to a woman named **Illyana** (could it be? Nahhh—) who was manipulated by still another evil priest into horrible sacrifices! **Sylitha**, Sandratha, and all these nasties met appropriate fates either at the hands of Ka-Zar or the gods, and ol' **Kevin Plunder** lived to frolic another day with **Tongah**, the Zebra Men, and the countless other denizens of the late, lamented Savage Land.

In quite another jungle, meanwhile, **T'Challa** was up to his neck in trouble! The kingdom of Wakanda usurped by the traitorous **Erik Killmonger, the Black Panther** spent all of '75 questing through the Wakandan wilderness for vengeance! In the course of "Panther's Rage," he battled and defeated the monstrous **White Gorilla**; the vampiric **Sombre**, caretaker of Resurrection Altar; and the vicious **Salamander K'ruel**. Aiding him was one of the best developed supporting casts a hero has ever had: the lovely American, **Monica Lynne**; the healer, **Mendinao**; security head **W'Kabi**; communications chief **Taku**; and the mysterious, enigmatic boy-child, **Mokadi**. As Killmonger summoned an army of dinosaurs to trample Wakanda, the climactic battle pitched **Venomm**, reformed from his evil ways, against Killmonger's lieutenant, **King Cadaver** — and Monica against the hellion called **Malice** — while T'Challa and Killmonger wrestled it on a mountaintop! Killmonger fell to his death, but his legacy remained, for his lover, **Madame Slay**, still sought vengeance! By year's end, Wakanda was at peace, but all of T'Challa's friends would bear the scars for many months to come!

Wilderness also set the scene for the first adventures that year of SHANG-CHI, MASTER OF KUNG-FU! (What a smooth segue!) Along the Amazon, **Shang** and his allies in British intelligence fought si-fan assassins and Nazi terrorists, while trying to remain desperate allies with the savage natives of the region! **Fu Manchu's** daughter, **Fah Lo Suee**, entered the scene, and we learned of the fatal attraction between her and **Sir Denis Nayland Smith**! Fu Manchu invited Shang to kill him in a desperate confrontation, and Shang, seeing his father in a different light, spared his life — a mercy he would have cause to regret in future years. But right then he was too busy, for Sir Denis plunged Shang into a new direction, that of espionage agent par excellence! In a wonderful trilogy of tales, Shang and company met **Razor-Fist**, **Pavane**, and the drug-dealer **Velcro**, who was parlaying his drug connections to raise money for his private nuclear arsenal! This shattering action epic was quickly followed by another trilogy, in which Shang met the lovely, deadly British agent **Leiko Wu**, and together they went up against the madman known as **Mordillo**! With his island armed with deadly animated toys, not the least of which was the comical killer **Brynocki**, Mordillo was a deadly menace under any circumstance — but even more now that he had captured a world-threatening weapon, the solar chute! The final struggle matched Leiko against Pavane, and Shang against Mordillo, until at last the searing rays of the solar chute incinerated Mordillo, and his faithful robot servant, Brynocki, was left to cradle his master's skeleton!

GIANT-SIZE MASTER OF KUNG FU featured novel-length exploits of martial arts intrigue, and every issue carried forward Shang's rising and advancing of the spirit. Issue #2 introduced the **Shadow-Stalker** and British agent, **Clive Reston**, possibly a relative of both **Sherlock Holmes** and **James Bond**! Issue #3 revealed that **Dr. Petrie**, whom Shang believed he had killed, was still alive, the pawn in yet another deadly game of Fu Manchu! And issue #4 introduced the most daring character of all — renegade cabbie, **Rufus T. Hackstabber**! And against the si-fan assassin known as **Tiger-Claw**, even Rufus could be a help!

But wait! You wonder if there were yet MORE adventures of Shang-Chi in '75? Wonder no more, effendi, for THE DEADLY HANDS OF KUNG FU provided all that and more! A six-part saga sent Shang on a quest for the Golden Dragon, a mystical artifact sought by a score of dangerous characters! The ninja known as **Shadow-Thief** gave Shang some of his most difficult battles, but not as bad as the climax of the tale, in which the statue's mystical nature pitted Shang-Chi in battle against himself! **The Sons of the Tiger** were a regular feature in DEADLY HANDS, as they battled to unravel the mystery of **the Silent Ones**, who had caused the death of their master. At last avenging **Master Kee**, the sons then enjoyed some solo adventures: **Abe Brown** teamed up with **Blackbyrd** to foil some plutonium smugglers; **Bob Diamond** investigated murder on his movie set; and **Lin Sun** entered an incense dream to battle ancient enemies! The Sons were reunited to quell a prison riot, but internal struggles would soon pull them apart, for Bob Diamond loved the beautiful **Lotus Shinchuko**, but her love for him was transferring to his partner, **Lin Sun**! Soon these tensions would explode, and from the blast would emerge a daring new hero!

Iron Fist, the living weapon, also starred in DEADLY HANDS — first in a novel-lengther against his arch-enemy, **the Steel Serpent**; then guest-starring with the Sons of the Tiger, and finally beginning his own six-parter where he met the **Firebird** (not the car or the figure of myth) and **the Lord of Hell**! Meanwhile, his four-color series in MARVEL PREMIERE was hopping with activity — or is hopping the right word when your first adversary of the year is **Batroc**? Hired by **Ward Meachum**, Batroc's Brigade attacked Iron Fist, but our hero had unexpected help — the ninja who had slain **Harold Meachum**! Who was the ninja? Further adventures revealed him to be a warrior of K'un-Lun, imprisoned in the book of the death goddess **Kali**, by the Fist's old friend and teacher, **Lei Kung the Thunderer**! The ninja freed himself from the book to operate on this plane by possessing the form of Iron Fist's newfound friend, **Professor Wing**! With the help of **Colleen Wing** and her partner, the newly-introduced **Misty Knight**, Iron Fist was of course able to triumph, and the mysteries surrounding his origin appeared solved — for the moment! Before anyone could delve deeper, though, **Warhawk** made the scene, kidnaping Colleen. And no sooner did Iron Fist defeat the Warhawk than he was up against the **Monstroid**, a robotic assassin sent after **Princess Azir** of Halwan. Iron Fist's delightful supporting cast was again expanded when he met **Lt. Rafael**

Scarfe, as well as a few suspiciously familiar Bullpenners playing softball in Central Park!

Poor Colleen was kidnaped a second time, this time by **Angar the Screamer** — but this time she couldn't be rescued so easily! Iron Fist's search for her led into the pages of his own new series, and into conflict with **Iron Man**! Misty Knight joined him on the search, but clues to the identity of the mysterious Masterlord who had kidnaped Colleen were few and far between. Meanwhile, MARVEL PREMIERE became a spotlight book in Iron Fist's absence, first featuring the solo debut of **Hercules**, up against the savage **Typhon**; and next the sexy succubus, **Satana**, whose battle with the **Dansker** threatened to release the world-devouring demon inside of her! The one-shots that MARVEL PREMIERE played host to could always be counted on to keep you on your toes, ready for whatever might come next!

Unusual adventures were the staple of two more black-and-white magazines which, though long-gone and rarely mentioned today, deserve a moment of attention! PLANET OF THE APES presented two kinds of exciting tales: chapter-by-chapter adaptations of all six of the films in the APES

series, and even better, all-new adventures of the "next movie," "Terror on the Planet of the Apes." The saga known as "Terror . . ." featured **Jason**, a young human, teamed with **Alexander**, a young chimpanzee. The boys had been framed for murder by **Brutus**, the villainous gorilla who had killed Jason's parents, and who had chased them from the city into the Forbidden Zone. Accompanied by **the Lawgiver**, Jason and Alexander met many a strange character in the wilderness — **Steely Dan** and his friend, **Gunpowder Julius** — the beautiful gypsy, **Malaguena** — the mute clown **Trippo** — and the menacing mutant-drones of **the Inheritors**! Brutus was finally brought to justice for his crimes, but his punishment, a lifetime of exile, didn't satisfy Jason, who set off after Brutus in a quest for vengeance. And so began a new cycle of adventures, as Jason and company met the eccentric post-nuclear inventor, **Lightsmith**, and searched for the mysterious Psychedrome amidst the ruins of Mount Rushmore!

The tales in PLANET OF THE APES also included "Future History Chronicles," a look at a brave new group of colonists exploring the oceans of the Apes world; and "Kingdom on the Planet of the Apes," a romance in which a man from our time found himself flung forward to become a Connecticut Yankee, of sorts, in a gorilla's court! From the simple concept of the APES movies, a multitude of storylines flowed, making APES one of the most unpredictable books around!

Finally, DOC SAVAGE starred in magazine-sized adventure throughout 1975, in the kind of epic exploits he had braved in the 1930s. Accompanied by **the Amazing Five** (**Ham**, **Monk**, **Renny**, **Long Tom**, and **Johnny**), with the occasional assist from beautiful **Pat Savage**, Doc had the room in the black-and-white format for battles and mysteries that would dazzle the eye and imagination! His first issue pitted him against **the Manimals** and the menace of **the Silver Ziggurat** — his second issue featured the atavistic threat of **the Reptilians** — and every issue included articles and ephemera on the many facets of the legend of **Clark Savage, Jr.**!

Next time we'll polish off 1975, with a look at the handful of heroes we haven't mentioned yet: **Daredevil** meeting **the Torpedo**, **Capt. Marvel** witnessing **the Trial of the Watcher**, **Thor** meeting the Egyptian pantheon, and still more wonderment! Be there — I know I will!

—Brian Nelson

MARVEL COMICS PRICE GUIDE

Let's say you want to stroll down memory lane, and relive firsthand some of the astounding Marvel moments we covered this month! Here's what you can expect to pay for these issues at your local comics specialty shop. As always, our source is Robert Overstreet's COMIC BOOK PRICE GUIDE #17. But remember: this is only a guide. Actual price may vary, and should be even less for copies in fair or poor condition.

	CONDITION		
	Good	Fine	Mint
■ **CONAN THE BARBARIAN**			
46–49	.25	.75	1.50
50–57	.25	.80	1.60
■ **DEADLY HANDS OF KUNG FU**			
16–19		.60	1.20
■ **DOC SAVAGE (magazine)**			
1	.25	.75	1.50
2		.50	1.00
■ **GIANT-SIZE CONAN THE BARBARIAN**			
2	.70	2.00	4.00
3–5	.30	.90	1.80
■ **GIANT-SIZE MASTER OF KUNG FU**			
2–4		.60	1.20
■ **IRON FIST**			
1 (guest-starring **Iron Man**)	1.50	4.50	9.00
2	.85	2.50	5.00
■ **JUNGLE ACTION**			
13–18 (**Black Panther**)		.30	.60
■ **KA-ZAR**			
7–10		.40	.80
11–13		.30	.60
■ **KULL AND THE BARBARIANS**			
1	.40	1.25	2.50
2–3 (**Red Sonja by Chaykin; Solomon Kane**)	.30	.90	1.80
■ **MARVEL FEATURE**			
1 (Red Sonja)	.25	.80	1.60
■ **MARVEL PREMIERE**			
20 (**Iron Fist**)	.35	1.00	2.00
21–24 (Iron Fist)	.25	.80	1.60
25 (**Byrne's** 1st Iron Fist)	.85	2.50	5.00
26–27 (26: **Hercules**, 27: **Satana**)	.25	.80	1.60
■ **MASTER OF KUNG FU**			
24 (**Starlin**, Simonson)	.25	.75	1.50
25–30		.60	1.20
31–35 (33: 1st **Leiko Wu**)		.40	.80
■ **PLANET OF THE APES**			
4–10	.25	.70	1.40
11–15		.50	1.00
■ **SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN**			
4	.85	2.50	5.00
5–9	.70	2.00	4.00
■ **SAVAGE TALES (Ka-Zar)**			
8, 10	.50	1.50	3.00
9, 11, ANNUAL 1	.40	1.20	2.40

From the Files of

WILLIE LUMPKIN

Send your letters to MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE, c/o Marvel Entertainment Group, Inc., 387 Park Avenue South, New York, New York 10016

This month's letter column title comes to us courtesy of Nate Metcalf of Cokato, MN. Thanks, Nate! As you probably recall, Willie was the Fantastic Four's ridiculously overworked mailman, until he finally got to retire a couple of years back. And you know, now that we've dedicated a letter column to a postal carrier, our mail comes so much faster these days!

Hmm . . . You know, we still need a new letter column title every month. So now that our mail's taken care of, if you have any titles that have to do with plumbers, electricians, deli owners, or other service professionals, send them on in! We'll even print your name in this space as our way of saying "thanks."

Oh, what the heck; even if your title won't get us favors from anybody, send it in anyway! Hey, that's just the kind of guys we are.

Dear Marvelous Ones,

I have been a Marvelite for many years. Unfortunately, I was not around in the 'Sixties and so on, so I am unclear about some things. I hope you can straighten me out.

1) What is the relationship (father and son, cousins, brothers) between **the Beast** (former **Avenger**) and the **Beast** (currently of **X-Factor**)?

2) Why and when did **Thor** give up his human guise of **Dr. Blake**?

3) How much time passes in an average comic book?

4) How come everyone says **Spider-Man** isn't a real or a professional super hero?

5) What does it take to beat **Spider-Man**?

Until **the Punisher** reads CRIME AND PUNISHMENT, Make Mine Marvel!

Lehman Shaw
* V.P., Tappan Jr. High Comics Club
2363 Stone Dr.
Ann Arbor, MI 48165

You sure asked a lot of questions there, Lehman. Taking them in order:

1) Actually, it's a pretty close relationship. They're the same guy! You probably just didn't realize because of the blue fur ol' Hank was sporting in his Avenging days.

Incidentally, the Beast has also been a member of the Defenders, not to mention a founding member of the original X-Men! Guess some people are just born to join. . .

2) Odin created Thor's mortal alter ego 'way back when as a means of teaching the Thunder God humility. When Odin finally decided that Thor had learned his lesson (in THOR #340), he removed the enchantment which turned Thor into Dr. Don Blake. What do you suppose the American Medical Association had to say about that?

3) That's a tough one. There's an enormous range. Probably, most comics take place in the space of a day or two. But the EMPEROR DOOM Graphic Novel, for example, spanned an entire month. And during the recent WEST COAST AVENGERS time travel saga, each issue reached from ancient Egypt to the old West to the present! Sheesh, no wonder we have so much trouble staying on schedule!

4) Gee, we don't remember anybody saying that. But if you're asking why Spider-Man gets less respect than, say, Captain America, well, don't forget that Spidey's not only not sanctioned by the government but he also gets an awful lot of bad press. And of course, there's always the famous Peter Parker luck to deal with!

5) We can't print the answer to that, Lehman! What if Doctor Octopus is reading this column?!

Dear Marvel,

Hi there! I'm the, uh, part-owner, no, no, THE OWNER Of Marvel Comics, yeah! And, uh, I read almost — no— ALL of the comics you put out, yeah, that's the ticket! And uh, about **Spider-Man**, well, uh, I came up with his character, NO, I AM Spider-Man! Yeah! **Stan Lee** met me in New York — no — the Moon! yeah! That's the ticket!! I saved him from Martians — no — mutants! Yeah! Then he introduced me to **Jim Shooter** and we, uh, partied all night! YEAH, with uh, **the She-Hulk**, **Wasp**, and **Mary Jane**! Yeah, that's the ticket! Stan was with the She-Hulk . . . the crazy guy . . . Well uh, guess I'll be going now, gotta go save the **Avengers**, yeah, that's the ticket . . . See ya!!

Richard D. Willis
912 Allen Ct.
Socorro, NM 87801

Good to hear from you, Richard. Sorry we can't talk right 'now, but uh, Galactus is at the door, yeah, that's it. He's, uh, selling cosmetics, yeah. And we were thinking about buying some for our wife . . . Hela, the goddess of death! That's the ticket!

And now, it's time yet again for the much-awaited LETTER OF THE MONTH! Yes, that part of our column where you, the reader, get the chance to have your words printed against an attractive canary yellow background. Every month, we pick a letter (or sometimes two) which catches our attention even more than usual and stick it right here.

This issue's Letter of the Month has to do with (of all things) international relations!

To anyone at Marvel Comics who wishes to answer my letter,

I'm writing this letter because of a question that has come to mind lately. Why would the Soviet government sponsor a super-agent program such as the Soviet Super-Soldiers? We just studied the U.S.S.R. in World Studies, and I've found out a lot about the Soviet Union.

For example, do you know anything about their literature? Ever since 1917 when the Communist government took over, the government has pushed politics in literature and art (and just about everything else). A quote from **Thomas Miller**, my World Studies teacher: "When boy meets girl in the Soviet Union, they talk about mass production of their products." I blurted out, "Talk about a boring relationship." To which Mr. Miller replied, "That's exactly right. It's boring." The point I'm trying to make is that the Soviet government doesn't want to spread any ideas. Thats why there are no comic books or mystery stories in the Soviet Union (talk about boring).

So if the government doesn't want to spread ideas, why create a world-known super-group? The idea that there are super-powered beings and mutants in the U.S.S.R. would drive someone crazy enough to find out more about them and where they got their powers, and sell the story to an underground newspaper. Word would surely get around that there are super-powered beings in the U.S.S.R. and they would have what Marvel Earth has in the U.S. — fear of mutants. And these "mutants" are supported by the government!

People might even discover how mutants came to be and try to become "super-human" as they would soon discover that homo superior is better than homo sapiens. This has already started in the U.S. on Marvel Earth, so how far behind can the Soviets be? And why doesn't the U.S.S.R. have as many "heroes and/or villains" as the U.S.? And for that matter, why would any comic book company create a Soviet hero or group of heroes?

Jim Reed
327 N. 3rd. St.
Upper Sandusky, Ohio 03351

You've raised some pretty interesting points there, Jim. Let's see what we can do to answer them.

You have to remember that the U.S. and Russia are the two largest superpowers in the world these days. And that means their governments keep a pretty close eye on each other. Back when the U.S. first developed nuclear weapons, the Soviets rushed madly to create atomic bombs of their own, because until their strength equaled the Americas', they *felt* they were in danger of being attacked and possibly destroyed. And so began the never-ending insanity of the arms race which we've all come to know and love.

Now, let's think about super beings for a minute. On Marvel Earth, the U.S. has tons of them. And that represents a threat to the Soviet Union. We're not saying that American super heroes *would* attack Russia (just as we're not saying that the U.S. is about to launch nuclear missiles), but to the Soviets, the possibility of an American super-attack exists, and that poses the same danger as American nuclear superiority would. So it makes sense that the U.S.S.R. would work around the clock to try to create super beings of its own to bridge the "super hero gap." And it also makes sense that they would publicize their heroes; after all, to paraphrase the movie *Dr. Strangelove*, "What good is a deterrent if nobody knows you have it?"

That's our opinion, anyway. Anybody out there know more about life in the Soviet Union? If so, write in and add your two cents to this discussion.

Actually, this whole idea would make for some pretty interesting summit meetings. Can't you just picture Reagan telling Gorbachev, "We'll take away Iron Man's armor if you get rid of the Crimson Dynamo and seventeen cruise missiles?"

Dear MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE,

I am a big fan of Marvel Comics, and I have a few questions I'd like to ask:

Are there going to be any new Epic titles coming out? Are there going to be any more New Universe titles? Is there going to be a PUNISHER Graphic Novel?

Until **Wolverine** moves to Elm Street, Make Mine Marvel!

Scott Miller
5701 Carrol Dale Dr.
Eldersburg, MD 21784

Sorry, Scott, there's no plan for a PUNISHER Graphic Novel right now. As for new New Universe ti-

ALL RIGHT, YOU OVERGROWN SACK OF SLUDGE! -- THIS ONE'S FOR CAPTAIN MARVEL!
AND THAT'S FOR THE SUB-MARINER!
BOK!
WHOK!
BWUNK
AND THIS IS 'CAUSE YOU'RE STILL STANDING!

ties, that there are! Just keep reading MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE for a full report!

And yes, there are new Epic Comics titles on the way! Keep your eyes peeled for the dazzling debuts of VIDEO JACK, MOEBIUS, BLOOD, DOCTOR ZERO, and a host of others! Of course, you can get the lowdown on each of these exciting new series right here in the pages of MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE. But then, you didn't really need to be told that, did you?

Dear Marvel,

I would just like to say that I have read your comics and I think they are tasteless pieces of junk. I mean, gimme a break, mutants who have powers, right! A wall-crawler who shoots webs, uh-huh. A blind guy who has senses like a bat, gimme a break. It's not worth the 75 cents. 'Nuff said.

Richard D. Willis
912 Allen Ct.
Socorro, NM 87081

P.S. APRIL FOOL!! Ya didn't think I meant all that, did ya??

Whew! You sure had us worried there for a second, Richard. By the way, did we mention that we're canceling THE X-MEN and G.I. JOE?

April Fool!!!

Say, this could get to be fun.

Incidentally, Richard, are you any relation to the Richard D. Willis of 912 Allen Ct. whose letter we printed elsewhere in this column? Boy, you guys must get real confused when your parents call you, huh?

And now here we go with this month's installment of THE MARVEL AGE PEN PAL CLUB! We may not have a new name yet for our nifty column, but hooo boy, do we have people who want to become pen pals! Here they are:

Jon Boeck
325 Leeward Ct.
Fort Collins, CO 80525
Age: 14
Favorites: X-MEN, FALLEN ANGELS, X-FACTOR

Jason Page
P.O. Box 1198
Cornelious, NC 28031
Age: Didn't say
Favorites: X-MEN, X-FACTOR, POWER PACK

Raymond Clarke
512 Moss Ave.
Boston, MA 02118
Age: 16
Favorites: X-MEN, X-FACTOR, ALPHA FLIGHT

Patrick Peralta
807 Lori Lane
Chula Vista, CA 92010
Age: 19
Favorites: THE AVENGERS, PSI FORCE, THE NEW MUTANTS

Jason Cooper
158 Rideout Rd.
Hollis, NH 03049
Age: 12
Favorites: THE AVENGERS, WEST COAST AVENGERS, X-MEN

Alan Reid
356 Berkeley Circle
Dorval, Quebec
CANADA H9S 1H4
Age: 13
Favorites: POWER PACK, X-MEN, THE AVENGERS

Dwayne Heid
204 E. Irving
Bucyrus, OH 44820
Age: 19
Favorites: THE AVENGERS, WEST COAST AVENGERS, SILVER SURFER

Simon Shippey
38 Dalkieth Road
West Dulwich
London SE21 8LS
ENGLAND
Age: 12
Favorites: X-MEN, SILVER SURFER, ALIEN LEGION

Todd McLean
111 Davidson Ave.
Savannah, GA 31419
Age: Didn't say
Favorites: X-MEN, IRON MAN, G.I. JOE SPECIAL MISSIONS

Blake Wilkie
298 North Main St. #3
Jonesboro, GA 30236
Age: Didn't say
Favorites: THE PUNISHER, CAPTAIN AMERICA, THE AVENGERS

There you go! Drop 'em a line! You might make a friend!

If you haven't sent in your name yet, c'mon — join the club! Membership's easy — all you need to do is send us your name, address, age, and the titles of your three favorite Marvel comics to MARVEL AGE PEN PALS care of the address at the beginning of this letter column. And drop in a name for the Pen Pal Column — we need something snazzy! See you in thirty!

MARVEL TRIVIA QUIZ ANSWERS

1 "The Stars and Stripes," of course, is Cap's hotline network!

2. Bernie matriculated at the University of Wisconsin at Madison (and if you've ever matriculated, you know how painful that can be)!

3. **The Death Throws**, a nefarious team of jugglers.

4. D) — **Mirage**.

5. They, and only they, share the knowledge of Captain Marvel's secret identity: **Monica Rambeau**!

6. But of course, the emblem of Nazism at its worst, the Red Skull!

7. Both SHIELD agent **Gail**, and the voluptuous **Diamondback**, had the hots for Cap, but to no avail!

8. Surely you haven't forgotten the **Ameridroid**?

9. **Jeff Mace**, one of Marvel's longest-lived and noblest crusaders.

10. Brainwashed by the National Force, Sharon incinerated herself as part of a terrorist mass suicide.

11. **Lord Taurey**.

12. **Mister Muda**, also known as **Tath Ki**, also known as **the Contemplator**, also known as "Hey, Fatso!"

13. Harderman ran the Committee to Regain America's Principles, the group which discredited Cap and tried to replace him with **Moonstone** — a plan that turned out to be a bunch of C.R.A.P.!

14. The original **Serpent Squad**: the original **Viper, the Eel**, and **the Cobra**!

15. The Hood was **Baron Strucker** — or was he?

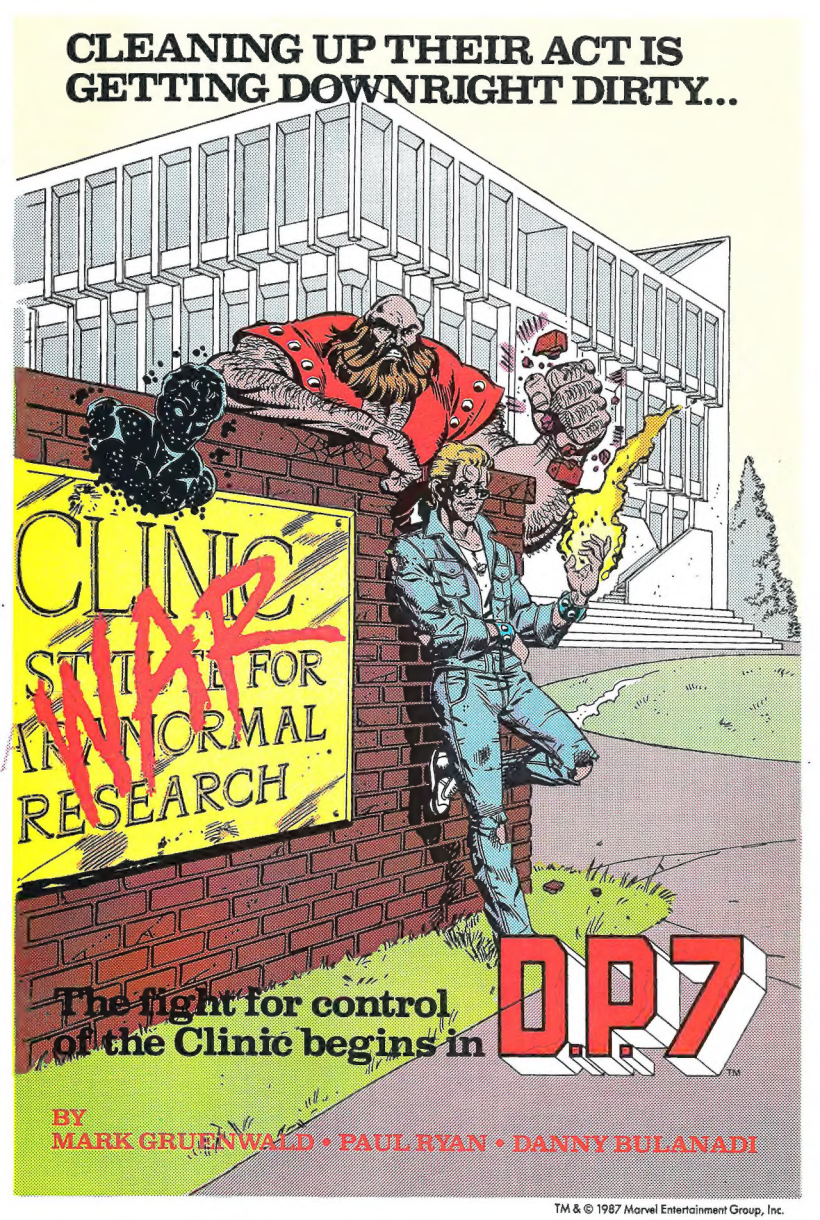
16. Cap and the man who would be **the Falcon** met on Exile Island.

17. Cap urged **the Black Panther** to take over his spot in the Avengers!

18. **Sgt. Duffy** — the poor joe!

19. **The Acrobat** — with a name like that, you can imagine how successful his scheme was!

20. "All those who choose to oppose his shield must yield!"



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THE 1987 MARVEL AGE® CALENDAR

#9 IN A TWELVE-MONTH LIMITED YEAR

SEPTEMBER SO SOON

MIKE CARLIN—WRITER **RON ZALME**—ARTIST **PAUL BECTON**—COLORIST

WEDNESDAY
THURSDAY
FRIDAY
SATURDAY
HAPPY BIRTHDAY, WALT SIMONSON!
2
3 TODAY IS PAT REDDING'S BIRTHDAY!
SO! YA WANNA MAKE SOMETHIN' OF IT?
4?
YESTERDAY WAS 5 ROSEMARY McCORMICK-LOWY AND KENNY LOPEZ'S BIRTHDAY!
YESTERDAY?! WHY WE OUGHTA...
WHAT IF... 9 SHAKESPEARE WROTE STAR COMICS?
STAR #1
SPIDER HAMLET
TO BE OR NOT TO BE...
10
11 HAPPY BIRTHDAY, ROD WHIGHAM!
WONKA-BOOM
THANKS,
TAKKA-TAKKA-TAKKA
BOOM! K-POW
BANG POW
K-POW P-CHIN
12
16 TODAY IS TYPESETTER BRENDA MINGS'S BIRTHDAY!
17 HAPPY BIRTHDAY, ROGER STERN!
YESTERDAY WAS ALSO DANNY FINGEROTH'S BIRTHDAY!
HELP!
18
IT'S BRIAN GARVEY'S 19 BIRTHDAY!
INK MODE
INK MODE
CHUG-CHUG CHUGITY CHUG!
23
OH BROTHER, IT'S BILL VALLELY'S BIRTHDAY! 24
I'M GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN!
25 HAPPY BIRTHDAY, BOB LAYTON!
26 TODAY IS LOUISE SIMONSON, DAWN GEIGER AND LOUISE JONES'S BIRTHDAY!
BUT I THOUGHT...
YOU THOUGHT RIGHT, DAWN!
30 HAPPY BIRTHDAY, KEN FEDUNIEWICZ!
GO AHEAD, MAKE MY LUNCH!
DARYL WHO?
29
BACK TO SCHOOL THINKING CAPS ON SALE HERE!
$5.00 EACH
$3.50 EACH!
ONLY $1.00 EACH
FREE GROSS!